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The Hongkong Telegraph

WEATHER FORECAST:
DULL.
Barometer 29.75

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April 9, 1918. Temperature 5 a.m. 74 8 a.m. 78
Humidity 92 94

April 9, 1917. Temperature 5 a.m. 67 8 a.m. 76
Humidity 94 91

7912 日八廿月二

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918.

二拜禮 號九月四英港香

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLE SITUATION.

A Brilliant British Counter-Attack.

London, April 8.
Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, says:—The counter-attack on Aveluy Wood on April 6 was a brilliant one, practically re-establishing our position along the old line, and we took a hundred and twenty prisoners with a dozen machine-guns. A German officer says that the casualties have been exceptionally heavy during the past fortnight, apparently because they have been moving more freely than heretofore. Among the men also there has been such a toll of non-commissioned officers that a general clean-cut among the older classes is progressing to replace them. Three attacks against the New Zealanders proved horribly costly for the enemy. On each occasion the New Zealanders continued firing Lewis guns until the rapidly-thinning waves were sufficiently close and then they bombed them furiously with hand grenades. It is easy to believe the assurance that the Boches disliked this form of resistance. Their dead are lying like corn-swallies at harvest time before the New Zealanders' positions. The Germans are bringing immense numbers of guns of every calibre into the struggle, but we are combating them pretty adequately. Thus last night a heavy bombardment broke out east of Villers and Bretonneux, and there were reasons to believe that it was preliminary to an infantry attack. We retaliated with such intensity that the enemy bombardment died down, nothing transpiring. A captured airman attributes our greater aerial activity to the greater numbers and superior qualities of the British machines and consequently the Germans cannot afford to risk flying over our territory to any great extent. The enemy is employing machine guns operated by trained teams in very large numbers. He is also losing them in very large numbers.

Important German Losses.

London, April 8.
A French communiqué says:—Our artillery stopped attempted enemy attacks in the region of Hargard in Santerra. We caught concentrations of troops at various points of the front north of Mondidier. A strong German attack on the right of the Meuse, north-east of Hill 344, was repulsed after sharp fighting. The enemy's losses were important. We took twenty prisoners. Seven aeroplanes and two balloons were brought down and five tons of bombs were dropped on cantonments in the Roze region.

German Hopes and Disappointments.

London, April 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at New York, the War Department's weekly review states:—The general strategic and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favourable. The enemy, at the opening of the third week of the offensive, is still far short of attaining his principal objective. It is now evident that the German High Command, contemplating overwhelming the British at the outset and driving a wedge in the Franco-British forces. The enemy fully expected to achieve this decision in the course of one great battle. The success of the plan depended on his ability to break through the British front and advance so rapidly that the Anglo-French Reserves would be unable to arrive in time to close up the breach and restore the order of the battle. The evidence of prisoners confirms that the enemy hoped to gain the line of the Somme on the evening of the first day. As a matter of fact, he took ten days to cover the ground he had expected to overrun in forty-eight hours. The stubbornness of the British resistance and the severe enemy casualties compelled the Germans to draw heavier reserves than they had anticipated. The Germans are now throwing fresh forces into the battle in an effort to secure some limited objectives. The Allied military machine, under the leadership of General Foch, is working with precise smoothness ensuring the greatest economy, harmony and efficiency in the use of all forces. The moral of the Allied troops remains high. The German offensive has not spent itself, and owing to the enemy's determination to gain some sort of success at any cost, the situation will continue to be uncertain for some time. However, the general strategic and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favourable and reports continue to indicate that the enemy contemplates an offensive in the Italian theatre of war, possibly along a broad front including the entire northern sector from the Upper Piave to Lake Garda.

Fine Work by Americans.

London, April 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, a despatch from the American front states that the enemy on Friday evening attempted at two points to raid the American trenches. The first attack was easily repulsed and the second allowed to approach close to the wire. Then fire was opened by the Americans, whose infantry immediately leapt into the trenches and drove back the assailants. The first German trench was cleared and the enemy compelled to retire to his support trenches. American artillery replied violently to German artillery and two German batteries were silenced.

The Bombardment of Paris.

London, April 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, an official message states:—The bursting of one of the long-range guns bombarding Paris is confirmed from a sure source of information. The bursting occurred on March 25 when a Lieutenant and nine men were killed. The long-range bombardment continued yesterday, but there were no victims.

British Line Advanced.

London, April 8.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, states:—The advanced line slightly during the night on the south bank of the Somme and east of Vire-sous-Corbis. We took a few prisoners north of the Somme, near Neuville Vitasse. There was increased hostile artillery firing during the night on the whole of the battle front. There is heavy gas-shelling between Lens and the La Bassée Canal and also east of Arras.

The Guns Busy.

London, April 8.
A French communiqué states:—The night was marked by violent artillery action, notably on the left bank of the Oise.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLE SITUATION.

The French Outlook.

London, April 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, a semi-official message states:—Up to the present there is no reason to regard the German attack on Hill 344 yesterday as indicating a threatening offensive in this sector. The Chauny-Barrisais affair does not seem to point to any new departure of a general nature. A great mass of German reserves is still moving towards Amiens, which is still the goal of the German High Command, though the latter is momentarily forced to interrupt the forward movement owing to exhaustion and the heavy losses of his troops.

CONSCRIPTION FOR IRELAND.

Home Rule as a Set-off?

London, April 8.
Lobbyists of the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Morning Post* state that the application of Conscription to Ireland may be contingent upon the report of the Convention and the offer of Home Rule by the Government. The *Daily Chronicle* implores the Government not to make the grant of Home Rule conditional upon the adoption of Conscription.

MORE GERMAN INTRIGUE.

Tribal Leaders Urged to Massacre Allied Subjects.

London, April 8.
The Times correspondent at Tangier states that the Germans in Morocco have made proposals to Raisuli and other tribal leaders that in the event of a victory in France they should rise and revolt, massacre Allied subjects, declare the independence of Morocco and nominate a pro-German Sultan.

BOLO'S FINAL APPEAL REJECTED.

London, April 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Paris states that President Poincaré has rejected Bolo Pasha's final appeal.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLES IN FRANCE.

A Great French Military Feat.

London, April 7.
Reuter's correspondent at French Headquarters reports on April 6: In the second battle beginning on Thursday we held the enemy and repulsed him in most places with heavy losses with troops entering the battle on March 25. The closing days of March were among the most critical of the war. The Germans had been stopped on the Oise and Somme but confronting them between Mondidier and Moreuil with a mere cordon barring the way was Amiens. Troops were raised from a sector hundreds of miles distant as fast as possible and engaged the enemy as soon as they detained. The General, carrying a carbine, with his staff, had arrived and were scouting in the battle-field with only a few cavalry patrols between them and the Boche. A Staff Major was actually killed engaging the German mounted troops. The first reinforcements arrived on March 25, but the main body were several days later. Moreuil the enemy was preparing a grand attack. The moment was most critical for on March 27 nine miles of line were screened only by cavalry patrols and a few guns. The line was re-established on March 3 but held by only three French divisions. These had for four successive days to meet the shock of thirty enemy divisions. It is a sober fact that for those four days the General with three divisions held up ten times our numbers. There has been no finer military feat during the war. During the whole battle relief was impossible, yet fresh German divisions were thrown in daily. The enemy is fully exploiting his superiority in numbers by attacking in crushing strength, also always with fresh troops. As soon as an enemy division gains its objective it is withdrawn and its place taken by another. A retiring division is reinforced, rests a few days then is again sent to battle. Hence within a week the First Guards Division was engaged on two different sectors. We still hold, essentially the line we held on the 26th March. The enemy hold Moreuil and a number of villages on the west bank of the Aisne but they are dominated by the heights we retain. We hold Grivesnes and the chateau despite determined attacks on March 28th, 29th and 31st. This fight is typical of what is occurring daily. The village was held by five hundred French infantry, commanded by a colonel who blocked the windows of the chateau with mattresses and took up a rifle to help the defenders. They repulsed three regiments of the First Prussian Guards Division, accounted the best in the German Army. The enemy came on in waves, pushed and fed by thick columns of infantry. The French fought them from tree to tree of the park back to the walls of the chateau, whereupon the colonel ordered a counter-attack. The Poilus, crying "Vive la France," charged. After a hideous mêlée among the trees, they drove the Germans from the park. Fighting against similar odds occurred on those four days along the whole Aisne front. The enemy halted on the 31st for a breather and the attacks were renewed on the 4th inst. with fifteen divisions, including the Guards and Brandenburgers. The onslaught was repulsed with a slight loss of ground little more than the villages of Emally, Rameval and Sausville. To-day the enemy is quiescent excepting for artillery activity, but the high is expected to be of short duration.

French Line More Solid.

Paris, April 7.
With reference to the French withdrawal at Abbeville south of Chauny in Barisais sector mentioned in last night's communiqué, it is semi-officially explained that the French line there formed a dangerous sector which the French High Command decided to reduce. The Germans believed they could catch the French napping by anticipating the movement and attacking the point. They were unable however to prevent the conclusion of the French manoeuvre and their attempt was as costly to them as it was useless. The withdrawal merely makes the French line more solid.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLES IN FRANCE.

Aerial Operations.

London, April 7.
Reporting on aviation, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig says: Our aeroplanes, watching the enemy movements, reported a hostile concentration southward of the Somme. Large formations immediately went out in the rain, and dropped over five hundred bombs and fired fifty thousand rounds on the assembled infantry. We brought down fifteen and drove down eleven. Sixteen of ours are not yet located many of which doubtless were forced to land behind our lines owing to the difficulty of finding their aerodromes in the heavy rain. The Canadian airmen are doing most valuable work in the present battle. A wireless German official message says: We have captured Pierremonde and Folcembay.

Another German Attack Expected.

London, April 8.
Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing on the evening of the 7th, says: Local fighting has continued at various places along the British battlefront and there are sundry signs that the enemy is about to thrust again on a big scale. By the recent fighting north of the Somme the enemy endeavoured to improve his positions and possibly to secure a better jumping-off place. Between Meul and Buquoy the German positions are very unfavourable to artillery movement, therefore there should be a big push to develop this region and only by such could a great concentric attack upon Amiens be carried out. The infantry would soon outpace their gun supports if the enemy achieved further success. So far however their attempts have been almost entirely repulsed, invariably with very heavy losses. The attack of the 5th inst. was carried out by four divisions in waves having only a limited objective. Since the enemy heavily gas-shelled Auchonvillers before attacking and as the stuff hangs for days it is unlikely he would have employed it if he hoped to occupy the place. Last night, after twice laying an intense barrage to a considerable depth, the Germans attempted to advance north of Auchonvillers but were smothered by artillery and were unable to advance.

PREMIER'S MESSAGE TO INDIA.

London, April 7.
The Press Bureau announces that Mr. Lloyd George has sent a message to the Viceroy of India as follows: At this time when the intention of Germany's rulers to establish tyranny not only throughout Europe but in Asia has become transparently clear, I ask the Government and people of India to redouble their efforts. Thanks to the heroism of the British armies and their Allies the enemy's attempt on the West is being checked, but to prevent the menace spreading Eastward every lover of freedom and law must play his part. I have no doubt that India will add to the laurels already won and equip itself on an even greater scale than now as a bulwark which will save Asia from the tide of oppression and disorder which it is the enemy's object to achieve. The Viceroy has replied that all India is stirred to the depths by the noble sacrifices of the British people in the cause of the world's freedom and the stern and unalterable resolution that those sacrifices evince. India, anxious yet confident, fully realises the great issues at stake and your trumpet call at this crisis will not fall on deaf ears. I feel confident that it will awake the Princes and people's leaders to a keener sense of the grave danger which, stemmed in Europe, now threatens to move eastwards. I look to them for the fullest effort and fullest sacrifice to safeguard the soil of their Motherland against all the attempts of a cruel and unscrupulous enemy and to secure the final triumph of the ideals of justice and honour for which the British Empire stands.

RUSSIAN DENUNCIATION OF JAPAN.

Petrograd, April 7.
The Council of Commissaries in a manifesto accuses Japan of striving to crush the Republic and seize Siberia and declares that Japan is a deadly enemy of the Republic. It says that the Council has demanded an explanation and warns the Allies that their replies will greatly influence the Council's foreign policy. M. Joffe has been appointed Ambassador to Berlin and M. Kamenev to Vienna.

U. S. LIBERTY LOAN.

New York, April 7.
The first day's subscriptions to the Third Liberty Loan were three billion dollars. In New York and throughout the country they exceeded the subscriptions of the first days of the two former loans. Over one hundred millions was subscribed in New York. The subscriptions include the Bankers' Trust Company twenty-five millions, the National Park Bank twenty millions, the Corn Exchange Bank sixteen millions.

CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes under date of April 8 as follows:—The funeral of Ching P. Kwong is indefinitely postponed pending the arrival of Lady Ching, who refuses to agree to a State burying ceremony and the location of the grave in Dutch Folly, while the members of the Special Parliament say that what has been decided in the Parliament cannot be altered. It is reported that Lady Ching is very anxious to have the murder brought to justice. During a thunder storm on the afternoon of the 6th inst. two houses in the city were damaged by lightning and a girl was hurt. Tong Chikyan, Tachun of Yunnan, has sent an official gift.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending April 6, 1918:

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate Receipts for 14 weeks.
This Year: ...	13,111	191,671
Last Year: ...	13,142	189,087
Increase: ...		2,604
Decrease: ...		31

\$500,000 with which to purchase ammunition from the arsenal for attacking Yochow from Szechuen. Sam Hang-yang has reported that 18 battalions are now fighting severely in the neighbourhood of Shaka-Sing with Loong's troops. The result is not yet known.

TELEGRAMS.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, April 8.
Silver is quoted at 451 and the market is very quiet.

TRAMCAR ACCIDENT.

Inquest at the Magistracy.

At the Police Court this afternoon, before Mr. E. D. O. Wolfe, sitting as Coroner, an inquest was held into the circumstances attending the death of an unknown Chinese male, supposed to be a mendicant, who died as the result of injuries sustained through his being knocked down by tramcar No. 50, on the Praya East, at about 7.30 p.m. on March 25. The jury was composed of the following:—Messrs. C. T. Gandell, J. Grace, and A. Lay. Dr. McKenny deposed to the deceased being admitted to the Government Civil Hospital. He was then quite unconscious, and suffering from a fracture of the skull, which proved fatal by early the next morning. A post-mortem examination revealed that there was a very extensive fracture of the base of the skull, this being the cause of death. The driver of the car stated that he was taking the car from Happy Valley to Whitty Street. When opposite the godowns at the Praya East, he had to switch the current off in order to round the bend. He rang the bell, and later put the current on again. The road was fairly dark, and when nearing 110, Praya East a number of people rushed out from under the verandah across the road. He was forced to put on the emergency brake, and some of the people tried to turn back. The deceased failed to get clear of the car and was knocked down by the brass hand rail at the front. The car did not pass over the man, for he fell away from the car. Witnesses and the conductor picked the man up. He was unconscious. A ticket inspector told witness to take the car on and he did so, leaving the deceased with others. Witnesses denied telling the police that the deceased simply walked into the car. He was running with others. Deceased was only five or six feet from the car when witness saw him. Further evidence was given. The jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

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THIRD LIBERTY LOAN.

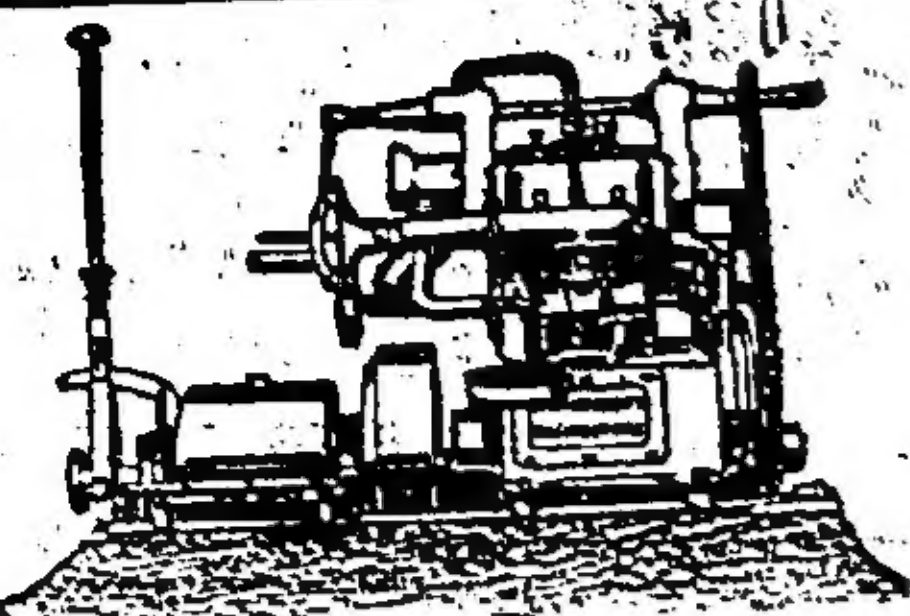
Facilities for Hongkong Investors.

The subscription list for the Third Liberty Loan of U. S. \$3,000,000,000 carrying interest at 4 1/4 per cent per annum, closes in America on 4th May, 1918. The International Banking Corporation in Hongkong is prepared to receive applications up to 25th April on the following terms:—5 per cent on application, 20 per cent on 21st May, 25 per cent on 11th July, 40 per cent on 8th August, and will also grant loans against this security.

LINER ASHORE.

We are informed by the Messageries Maritimes that one of the Company's liners has gone ashore near Singapore during a heavy gale. All the passengers have been saved and the vessel, though damaged more or less seriously, is not in a dangerous position. It is expected that repairs will occupy about two months.

NOTICES.



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Yorkshire

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AT HAPPY VALLEY.

MEE CHEUNG

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Hongkong, 16th August, 1918.

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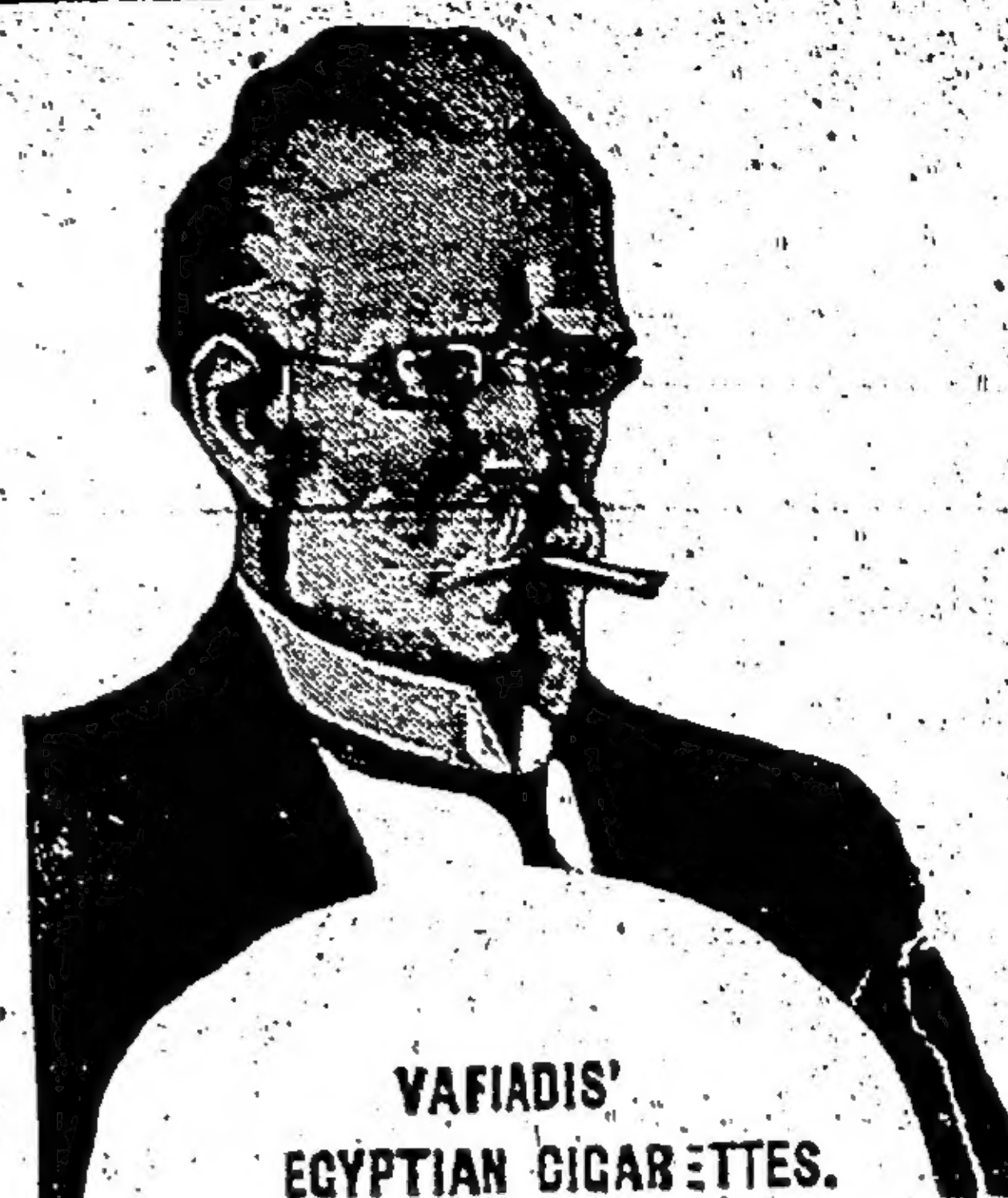
PHONE NO. 1116. 25, WING WOO ST.
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ORDERS BOOKED IN ADVANCE APPLY—
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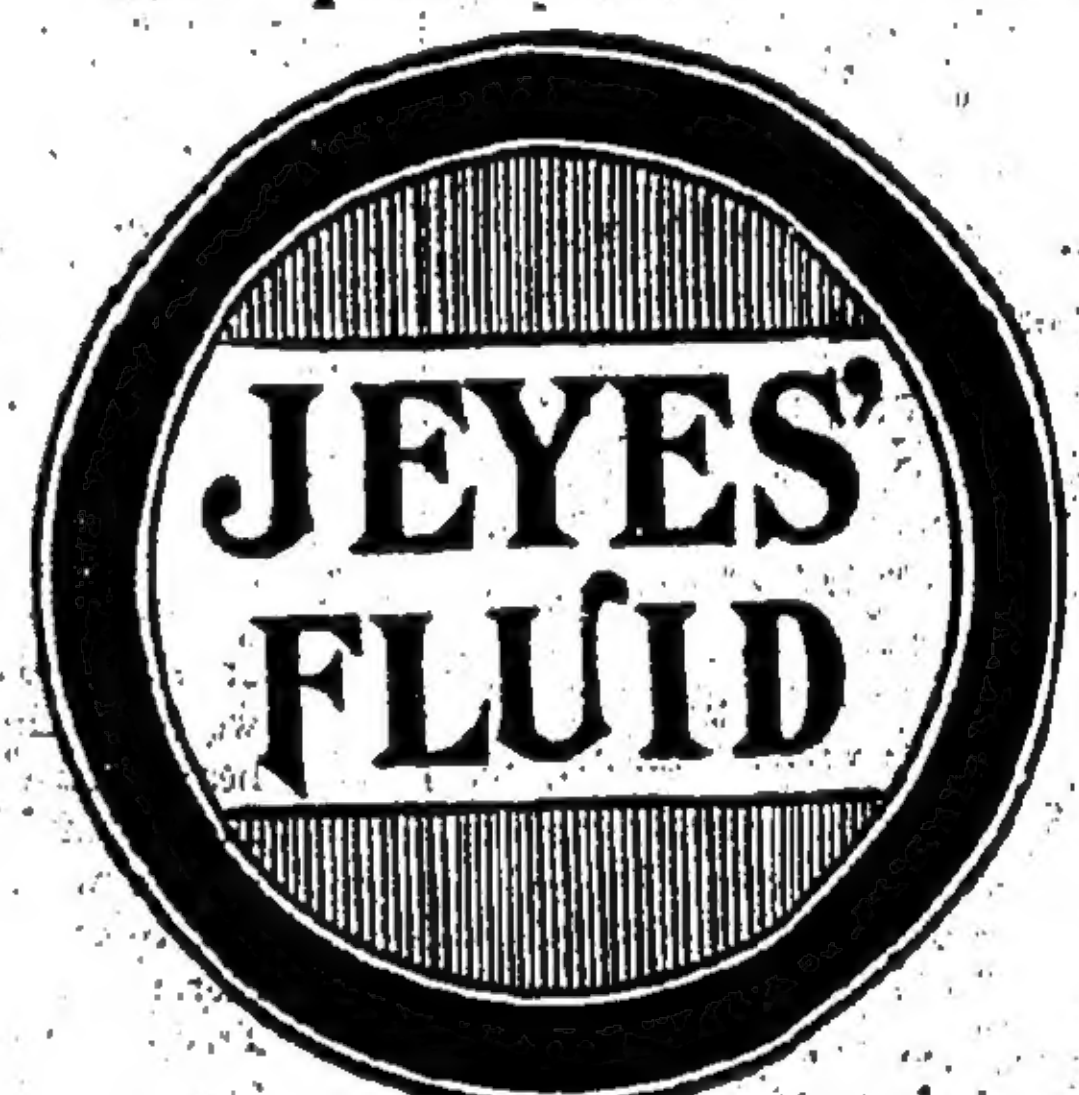
Imperial Bouquet per	100	\$5.30
Crown Prince	100	4.65
"	50	2.35
"	10	.50
Extra Fine (Grand Formal)	50	2.35
Nectar	50	2.35
Yildiz	25	1.10
Club Size	10	.40
Non Plus Ultra	100	3.60
"	50	1.85
"	20	.75
Superline	100	2.40
"	50	1.20

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G. R.

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1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Applicants will be required to
produce Passports or identifica-
tion papers.

All persons with certain excep-
tions who remain in the
Colony for more than 7 days are
required to Register themselves
under the REGISTRATION OF
PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the
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The Penalty for non-com-
pliance is a fine not exceeding
£50.

By the Registrar.

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By the Registrar.

GENERAL NEWS.

Cheap Tea Substitute.
Mr. A. W. Hart, secretary of
the local co-operative society, told
a Working audience that a sub-
stitute had been found for tea at
a cost of only 2.1 lb. The sub-
stitute was a green shell, which,
he said, contained a great deal of
nutriment, though it took some
time to extract. The best way
was to put the shells in a pot and
allow them to steep for several hours.
The liquid was then diluted, and made
a very refreshing beverage.

Rembrandt Sold for 7,000 Guineas.
A Rembrandt portrait of a
soldier was purchased at
Christie's recently by Messrs.
Agnew for 7,000 guineas. A
Botticelli, "The Nativity," was
bought by Mr. Amor for 2,800
guineas against 5,000 guineas
at its sale 10 years ago. There
is a depreciation in picture
prices. His Japheth sold for
1,000 guineas, whereas 40 years
ago it realised four times the
amount. Three other times of his
pictures also dropped consider-
ably in value.

Seizure of Football Coupons.
When the premises of six Glas-
gow printers were searched by
the police, Mr. Clyde announced
in Parliamentary papers recently,
large quantities of football betting
coupons were seized. The in-
structions given to the police by
the Procurator Fiscal were neces-
sary, and he proposed at once to
institute proceedings against the
printers. He did not agree with
the suggestion of Mr. Watt, M.P.,
that the stoppage of football
betting competitions would in-
crease unrest amongst munition
workers in the district.

C.O.'s Dying Request Refused.
Mrs. Butler, mother of Arthur
Butler, a conscientious objector
who died in prison, having
evidence at the inquest that her
son had been court-martialled,
twice sentenced for six months
hard labour for refusing to obey
military orders, and was serving
a third term of twelve months
hard labour for a similar offence.
When she saw him in Preston
Gaol on Tuesday he was gasping
for breath and said he was dying.
He added: "They have been
kind to me now, but it is to
last." His son begged very hard
for witnesses to be allowed to sit
with him, but the governor told
her it was against the rules, and
his request was refused.

War Pension: Concession.
A new Royal Warrant provides
that a soldier who has been com-
pulsorily retained in the service
during the present war may on
discharge have his pension assessed on his
service, instead of on his
such a course be more favourable
to him. A non-commissioned
officer discharged for medical
unfitness or on completion of ser-
vice, who, not being a pensioner,
has voluntarily enlisted during
the war, will, if finally discharged
as a non-commissioned officer,
be entitled for pension purposes
to count his service under both
testations as though it had been
continuous. The effect of this
provision is from the beginning
of the war.

Buying Knighthoods.
Remarkable allegations of
traffic in honours are made
by Mr. Oswald Stoll in a letter to
theatrical papers. After ac-
knowledging one of the knights
Mr. Stoll proceeds: "I wish
to place on record that since
1908 I have been repeatedly
approached with proposals that
I should purchase a knight-
hood in various cases £10,000, £12,000
and £15,000 respectively, and
specifically named by differ-
ent persons, as the sum at which a
matter would be carried through.
Another proposal was that
I should discount two bills, one
for £5,000, the other for £10,000,
to meet the honours to be ex-
changed before the due date.
This may be believed or not. I
clearly it is true. This letter is
written in a spirit of self-defence,
and I have no desire to know
I could have purchased a knight-
hood for less than I have previously
purchased on the War Seal
"Mr. Stoll, I am
him to produce his evidence,
would be 'quite prepared' to
do."

FRENCH LESSONS.

C. MOUSSON.

15, Morrison Hill Road.

Returned from America.
Dr. Lisa Tsong and Dr. Disting U. Ting, chemists, have recently returned from the United States of America. They were educated in America under the Lend-Lease funds. Dr. Tsong leaves for Shanghai on a business trip on the Teoyo Maru, and he will return to the Colony in a few weeks time.

SHIP'S OFFICER'S DEATH. THE GERMAN COLONIST AS SPY.

The Result of the Enquiry.

Mr. Dyer Bell, at the Magistrate's Court this morning, gave his decision in the enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of a Dutch ship's officer named Michael Van de Putte, who was Chief Officer of the s.s. Von Werricke, which took place on March 22.

Mr. Leo Longinotto again appeared for the Crown, and Mr. F. I. D'Almeida for Dr. Ton Toon-cheng.

His Worship said:—My verdict in this enquiry is that deceased died from death-radiation poisoning, being self-administered, without a proper knowledge of the approximate dose to be taken. My verdict is "Death from misadventure." In the course of this enquiry Mr. Stapleton, who is a registered person under the Poisons Ordinance, has admitted that he sold to Ton Toon-cheng 20 grains of cyanide, which is a poison, without complying fully with Section 12 of the Sale of Poisons Ordinance. This provides that the seller shall, before delivery, make an entry in a book kept for the purpose stating in addition to other particulars for what purpose it is required. It is highly important that this legislation should be complied with, and in my opinion Mr. Stapleton has rendered himself liable to a severe penalty. Dr. Ton Toon-cheng said that he had shown the poison to the Chief Officer and then removed the labels from the bottle, after which he put it in the dispensary and did not put it under lock and key, although he was aware that the Chief Officer himself had a key, that he had seen the bottle and knew there was cyanide on board, and desired it for his own use. Dr. Ton Toon-cheng's conduct is marked by very grave negligence. It would seem the poison which caused the death of the Chief Officer came from the dispensary of the Von Werricke. I do not find it proved as a fact that Dr. Ton Toon-cheng administered it to him.

GOLF.

Some Competition Results.

The final for the Wodehouse Cup was played off at Pealing on Saturday, 6th instant, Lady Ross Davies and Mrs. Maitland beating Mrs. Cusleton and Mrs. Goodwin by 3 up and 2 to play. The Captain's Cup is to be played at Happy Valley from 22nd to 27th April inclusive. Owing to shortness of course, three-quarters of handicap only to be taken.

A most interesting inter-Hong match was played on Saturday last, between Wayfoong and Tai-koo which resulted in a draw. It was a very fine contest, though played in bad weather, and Tai-koo were fortunate in having the services of Lawson, who was champion of Shanghai a year ago. Following are the scores, the opposing players meeting as indicated by the numerals:—

H. K. and S. B. C.

	Single	Four-balls
1 A. C. Leith	0	0
2 M. A. Murray	0	0
3 H. O. Sandford	0	0
4 R. P. Thurnfield	1	0
5 W. Ross	1	1
6 N. J. Stabb	1	1
7 H. E. Marisel	1	1
8 G. B. Dunnet	1	1
9 F. H. Thomas	0	1
10 G. E. Towns	1	1
11 T. M. Leitch	0	0
12 A. H. Barlow	1	1

B. & S.

	Single	Four-balls
1 R. A. Lawson	1	1
2 T. J. Fisher	1	1
3 R. J. Rawlinson	1	1
4 K. E. Greig	1	1
5 F. A. Wells	1	1
6 Ross Thomson	0	1
7 A. H. Lay	0	0
8 G. M. Young	1	1
9 J. W. Paton	1	1
10 D. Templeton	0	0
11 T. R. Chasels	1	1
12 J. M. McHutchison	0	1

LOCAL WEDDING.

Mr. R. K. Duncan—Miss C. S. Scott.

An interesting local wedding took place at the Union Church this morning, the contracting parties being Mr. Robert K. Duncan, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Duncan, of Greenock, Scotland, and Miss Catherine S. Scott, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Scott, of Quarry Bay. Both the bride and bridegroom are well-known in Hongkong, the bride being a talented local soprano vocalist, who has often figured at local concerts.

There was quite a large assembly at the church, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald. The hymn sung was "O God of Bethel" and "O Perfect Love," the organist, Mr. Chapman, playing appropriate selections on the organ, both prior to and following the ceremony. The bridesmaids were the Misses Charlotte and Margaret Scott, sisters of the bride, the duties of best man being discharged by Mr. Hector McTavish. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of white tulle silk, covered with white silk net, with silver trimming, and a veil of white silk net and wreath of orange blossom. She also carried a lovely bouquet of white roses. The elder bridesmaid was attired in a dress of white tulle silk, covered with white silk net, with silk embroidery and white lace hat, her sister wearing a dress of pink silk and bonnet to match. They carried a bouquet of pink roses and a basket of pink and white roses respectively. Mrs. Scott wore a dress of Champagne satin, covered with Joffe blue lace, with hat to match, carrying a bouquet of tea roses.

The bride's gift to the bridegroom was a gold cigarette case, the bridegroom presenting the bride with a diamond ring and the bridesmaids with gold bangles.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Hongkong Hotel, the newly married pair later leaving for the honeymoon, which will be spent in Japan. The bride's going away costume was of brown satin with hat to match.

The presents were numerous and well selected.

for them a passably innocent interpretation. But any German Military Intelligence Officer, having the answers of this fellow-German before him, could judge how far that German was likely to prove capable as a military spy; and could also gather a fairly correct idea as to how far he was likely to be willing to act in that capacity.

The "strictly confidential" letter then asked for "personal information," and put the crucial question as to whether the person addressed was willing "to become a confidential member of our Society." The man whose answers to the examination paper showed that he appreciated the military value of all this information was enrolled forthwith in the army of spies. With characteristic Prussian thoroughness Germans abroad willing to become "confidential members" were asked to "send their photographs at an early date." Such photographs would be useful, almost essential, for the use of the master spies who controlled the branches of the organisation. It is to be remembered, too, that it was part of the duty of all members of this society to spy upon their fellow German colonists, and provide all information likely to help the Fatherland in the matter of gathering in every available vestige of its "cannon-fodder," when need arose; the approved spies themselves being held immune and reserved for higher things, in the way of sabotage and espionage.

This was the system applied to all Germans abroad, the system which raised up for Germany a host of spies; and they were the more dangerous as they seemed to be merely industrious traders and farmers.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

SAUSAGES. SAUSAGES.

A Variety to suit all tastes

OXFORD SAUSAGES.

CAMBRIDGE "

PORK "

BEEF "

&c.,

LIVER SAUSAGES.

BOLOGNE, HEAD CHEESE.

BLACK PUDDING.

WHITE "

&c.,

&c.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE

HONGKONG.

TOMBOLA.

(IN AID OF WAR CHARITIES.)

GIFTS WANTED FOR PRIZES.

LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING.

THURSDAY, 11th APRIL, 1918.

HAVE YOU SENT YOURS?

IF NOT PLEASE SEND IMMEDIATELY TO.

RECEIVING DEPOT:—

Messrs. LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., (Office, 1st floor.)
10 a.m. to Noon and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.Bulky articles will be sent for on application to
Hon Sec "TOMBOLA" P. O. Box No. 94, Hongkong.

NO GIFT TOO LARGE.

NO GIFT TOO SMALL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Strong Support from the Profession.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh have issued a statement in which support is given to the proposal to establish a Ministry of Health, and suggestions as to the composition and purpose of such a Ministry are made.

The statement admits that the health of the country has received benefit from the work of the various Government departments under which the administration of the health measures was developed, but argues that the departments are limited in their sphere, and that a comprehensive measure of success has not been attained. A fundamental weakness lies in the fact that with none of the departments concerned is the control vested in a Minister appointed primarily to deal with health problems. What is required is the creation of a Ministry, which shall coordinate itself with health matters pure and simple, and to whose jurisdiction shall be transferred from other departments the operations of all existing enactments in so far as they deal with health.

To this end the Royal College makes the following suggestions:—

That the department should consist of the Minister and a Board of Health, of which the Minister should be chairman, and whose members should be elected on the ground of experience and interest in matters pertaining to health.

That the purpose of the department should be to administer the Health Act, to devise executive measures for dealing with health problems, not hitherto defined by legislative measures, to institute inquiries with a view to introducing measures for improving conditions affecting health, and to develop facilities for investigation of problems in health and disease as they may arise.

That the board should include three groups of members—(1) Administrative officials; (2) laymen, with wide experience of health problems, or in the administration of hospitals and other health agencies; official or voluntary; (3) medical members who have had experience in public health service, general practice, special clinical departments, including industrial medicine, medical research, and medical statistics.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

LOST.

LOST.—On Saturday from 6, Stewart Terrace, Peak, a BLACK TOM CAT, with leather collar. Finder please communicate with above address or Telephone 2532.

TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—RESIDENTIAL FLAT in Prince's Building. Apply to—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—No. 3, CANTON Villas, Kowloon. Apply to—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.

AN Interim Dividend of 8% (\$4.00) per Share has been declared payable on the 8th instant. Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 18th instant both days inclusive.
DOUGLAS, LAPRAIK & CO., General Managers.
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.
Hongkong, 6th April, 1918.

AERTEX THE ORIGINAL CELLULAR

We have now a full range of garments made of this cloth which is by far the most suitable and healthy to wear in hot weather, being cool, non-irritant and extremely durable.

SHIRTS — PYJAMAS

— UNDERWEAR —

Call and see them before deciding "what to wear."

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A GO. LTD.

MEN'S WEAR SPECIALISTS.

14, DES VŒUX ROAD.

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TELEPHONE 346

A NEW CONSIGNMENT OF GENTLEMEN'S

BOOTS AND SHOES

JUST UNPACKED.

— o —

INCLUDING

HEAVY MARCHING BOOTS.

— o —

BLACK and BROWN

BOOTS AND SHOES.

— o —

BRITISH MADE.



NEW COLUMBIA DANCE RECORDS.

A 5644	A PERFECT DAY FASCINATION	WALTZ.
A 5643	SUGAR LUMP BY HECK	FOL-TROT.
A 5945	KATINKA GIRLS, IF YOU EVER GET MARRIED	ONE-STEP.
A 5133	GARDEN OF DREAMS VILLAGE BELLES	WALTZ. BARN-DANCE.
A 5956	AMARYLLIS THE CENTURY GIRL	WALTZ.

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BURGOYNE'S SPECIALLY

SELECTED BURGUNDY RESERVE

RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY.

Burgundy Reserve per case 12 qts. duty paid 24.00

24 pils. 26.00

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WATER - RETURN.

WAR CHARITIES.

Hongkong's Splendid Contribution.

A meeting of the War Charities Committee was held last evening in the Chamber of Commerce room, City Hall, over which His Excellency the Governor presided. He was supported by Hon. Mr. E. E. Sharp, K.C. (Chairman of Executive Committee), Hon. Mr. E. B. Hallifax (Hon. Secretary), Mr. N. J. Stubb (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. H. C. Sandford (Assistant Hon. Treasurer), Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Hon. Mr. D. Landale, Hon. Mr. Ho Fook and Mr. H. W. Looker. There were also present: Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Mr. S. H. Dodwell, Mr. E. V. D. Parr, Mr. W. L. Patterson, Mr. A. B. Lowe, Mr. B. Sutherland, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald, Mr. J. Plummer, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Professor Middleton Smith, Mr. H. A. Cartwright, Mr. Chan Kai-ming, Mr. Ng Hon Tse, Mr. J. D. Wright, Mr. J. McPherson, Mr. E. Silva Netto and others.

Circulated among those present was a list of the charities which had benefited from the fund, this (which has already been published) showing that nearly \$700,000 has been distributed among some sixty institutions.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Mr. E. E. Sharp, K.C., said that the present Executive Committee had been responsible for the distribution of the Funds for more than two years, or ever since the beginning in January, 1916, when the Prince of Wales Fund was closed. The report before the meeting covered the whole of what had been done up to the 15th of last month. The receipts showed that altogether a total of over \$698,000 had been raised in that period for war charities. To that total Sir Paul Chater had added the results of a collection he had made round the mercantile houses of the Colony, which was over \$185,000 and which he hoped to raise to two lakhs. For that splendid contribution they were indebted to the generosity of Hongkong firms and also to the successful efforts of Sir Paul. It would thus be seen that very soon the contributions to the fund would reach a total of \$1,000,000 (Applause). With regard to the expenditure the Executive Committee had proceeded on three lines. The first was the direct allocations of the Executive Committee itself, which formed the bulk of what had been given. The second was allocations to minor, but none the less useful, charities which had been made at the discretion of their London representative, Mr. Murray Stewart, to whose help they owed much. The last method of distribution had been the passing on of specially earmarked subscriptions, and those comparatively small sums accounted for the small and uneven sums appearing in the accounts. With regard to the work of Mr. Stewart in London, the Committee early found it necessary to have a representative in London. In these days of slow mails it was almost impossible to keep the necessary prompt touch with new developments and ascertain the usefulness of certain small organisations. Mr. Stewart had done that for them and had done it exceedingly well. (Applause). He had distributed altogether between two and three thousand pounds among minor war charities, no individual sum having exceeded \$100. He had also ascertained information about the larger charities which had helped the Committee in great measure. At first he had the great assistance of Dr. Atkinson, but since the latter's death Mr. Stewart had done the work alone. Mr. Stewart's method of distribution, as would be seen by a letter he had written, was on the same lines as those here. The letter stated that anything original in the way of War Charities was now past and it was just a matter of keeping going those already established. So in the main he was keeping to old friends which he knew something about. He (the speaker) thought that Mr. Stewart's selections had been exceedingly good ones, and he certainly spared himself no trouble in the distribution of the gifts. When dealing with tobacco and cigarettes he put the consignments all into packets and thus

sent them to the men. That had entailed a great deal of labour and the best thanks of the Committee were due to Mr. Stewart for what he had done. (Applause). As regards the Executive's own allocations they had been as wide as possible to the most useful objects, the committee selecting those charities which were doing the most immediate and practical work. Details of the allocations had been regularly published and as would be seen, local claims came first. The item in the accounts, Materials for the Working Parties, was something over \$106,000. Hongkong working parties were organised as a branch of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild with Lady May as President and Mrs. Stubb as Vice-President. Those parties included practically all the ladies in the Colony and the enormous quantities of useful articles which their indefatigable labours had produced had been sent away to the various fronts and hospitals. Many letters of thanks had been published in the press showing how valuable those articles were. In the important matter of shipment they had to thank various shipping companies, especially the C.P.O.S. and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for their generosity in sending the parcels free of charge. (Applause). They had made the Royal Flying Corps Hospital a standing charge on the fund of \$200 a month for the support of the Hongkong ward which was started two years ago and which they had undertaken to maintain until the end of the war. They were also giving further \$1,000 a year towards the general funds of the Hospital. The item of \$24,000 for the British Red Cross was due to the Our Day efforts and the Committee did not add further from their General Fund except specially earmarked contributions. The last Our Day realised over \$10,000 as against \$5,000 the previous year. That was the largest amount yet realised on one day although they all hoped that the forthcoming St. George's Day would beat it. To prisoners of war they had given over \$5,000. Although the arrangements in England at one time overlapped they were now all organised under a central committee. Mr. Hallifax had many postcards from recipients showing that but for these articles the men would in many cases have gone short of even necessary food. There was only one other item that he thought needed reference to and that was the French Red Cross to which they had given over \$2,000. That organisation was perhaps more in need of help than the British Red Cross and was worthy of their best support. It would be noticed that there were comparatively few allocations to funds for sailors, either naval or mercantile, who had played so splendid a part in the war. A King George's Fund for sailors had lately been established, and no doubt a substantial sum would be allocated to this from our fund. Mr. Sharp concluded by saying that several members of the Executive Committee were away at the present time and that it was felt there was a need for fresh blood being introduced. He then submitted the report and accounts for approval.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, in rising to second the adoption of the report and accounts, said he wished to endorse the remarks which had fallen from the Hon. Mr. Sharp, upon the magnificent sum which had been raised up to the present in the Colony, which already, when coupled with the Prince of Wales Fund, amounted to over a million dollars. The sum was one of which they might well be proud, as having done in some small measure their part thus far, but he thought they would all agree with him that the greatest call lay before them and in the comparative shelter and safety which was found in Hongkong, they owed a still greater debt of gratitude to those who were fighting a grim battle for the very existence of the British nation. (Applause). In recognition of this tremendous fight which was even now being fought on French soil they were desirous of putting forward greater efforts than ever before, in payment of the sacrifices of those fighting on their behalf, because they could not do so

and because they were a small part of a great Empire whose one desire was to bring this war to a successful issue, cost what it may. (Applause). Reference had been made to the work which had been done by the Ladies' Committee, and he thought no tribute too high could be paid to the steady, solid, self-sacrificing work which had been carried on in all weathers and under trying conditions throughout the year. (Applause). Reference was also made by the Vice-President to the work which had been done by the shipping companies and he thought the name of Messrs. Shewan Tomes, who had not only forwarded cases free of charge but had assisted the Committee in various ways, had been omitted by error. Reference had also been made to the contribution made in the past by the St. George's Society. As far as he could pledge the Society at present they desired that the fund raised on the coming day should be managed by the War Charities Committee. The funds which St. George's Day would realise would be large, though during the coming celebration they must be greatly affected by the unfortunate visitation they had. They desired that the contribution should be added to the common effort so that the whole amount raised for War Charities by the Colony might be one worthy of the eminent reputation of the Colony. With these few remarks he begged to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was then put and carried. His Excellency the Governor said they would proceed to the principal object of business for which the meeting had been called, that was to enlarge the General Committee so that it might be thoroughly representative of all sections of the British community. It was hardly necessary for him to read the names of the existing General Committee as they were familiar with them and it would save time if he read them the names of persons whom it was suggested might give valuable services. Of course it was open to any one to suggest other names if they so desired. The names he suggested were Messrs. S. H. Dodwell, R. M. Dyer, T. F. Hoang, H. P. White, W. Adamson, B. Hancock, E. Ormiston, Ross Thompson and O. Montague Ede, Sir Charles Eliot (representing the University), Mr. Graham, of the Kowloon Dock Company, Dr. Forsyth, representing the Kowloon peninsula, Mr. Reid, representing Taikeo Dock, the Bishop representing the Church and Mr. Ansell representing the Indian community, and Messrs. Hay, Sutherland and Lee representing the historic art, which had rendered most valuable service to the fund. Then there should be a representative of the press. The press was a delicate institution to tamper with so it would be left to them to nominate their representative themselves. They would also like to have representatives of the St. George's Society and St. Andrew's Society. The object of having a thoroughly representative committee was to co-ordinate the special efforts which were being made and to prevent wasteful overlapping and interference with monthly subscriptions. He would suggest that so far as special efforts were concerned they should be limited to the four days that had already been established, namely "Our Day," "St. George's Day," "Heather Day" and possibly "Kowloon Day" which was held for the first time on the first day of this year. As he had said on many occasions, what the Executive Committee desired was a large monthly subscription list. At the present time the monthly subscription list was only \$3,000 and it was a notable fact that \$1,000 of that sum was subscribed by two individual subscribers and one firm. It had been suggested that the representatives of the different sections should make it their special care to promote monthly subscriptions. The men who undertook that duty would have a good deal of work on their hands. "I take this opportunity," His Excellency continued, "of welcoming the American Red Cross" (Applause). During the past few weeks we have learned to appreciate to the

full what it is to have America with us in this war. (Applause). In conclusion I wish on your behalf to express our sorrow at the loss we have sustained in the untimely death of Dr. Atkinson and our great appreciation both for him and Mr. Murray Stewart for the splendid work they have done for us in London. (Applause). His Excellency concluded that he understood that the Chinese members of the General Committee had some proposal to make for attending the work among the Chinese community. (Applause). He would be glad if members would suggest additional names other than those he had read, either for the General Committee or the representative list.

Hon. Mr. Holyoak suggested that Mr. Sinclair's name should be added as representing the stage and His Excellency also added the name of Mr. E. V. D. Parr.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak then read the following list of names, saying that those gentlemen would no doubt be of great assistance to the General Committee: Messrs. Tong Yat-shuen and his colleagues of the Tung Wah Hospital, Tang Ping-sheng and his colleagues of the Po Leung-kuk, Chan Shan-sun, Chan Lok-chuen, Lo Ket-ping, Wong Kam-fuk, Lo Cheung-shin, Chan Yue-ting, Ip Sau-chi, Ip Lan-chen, Chan Tien-shun, Tong Chi-ngon, Kam Yik-kai, Kam Chi-nam, Leung Iu-kong, Li Shan-fan, Tee Yau-chi, Chan Sek-shun, Au Chak-man, Lo Chung-ko, Cheuk-hing, Lai Ching-hui, Chan Fung-shang, Li Yik-min, Yeung Tse-ming, Ho Wing, M. K. Lo, Mok Kom-sang, Ho Kwong, Leung Yau-po, S. W. Tse, Chan Kong-yue, Chan Chik-yue, B. H. Kotewall, Sham Pak-ming, To Sze-tuan, Ma Yuk-shan, Chan Ha, Kwok-wat, Yan Siu-shi, Kwok Sai-lan, Fok Po-sai, Li Siu-kam, Wong Siu-long, Se Fat-wei, Chan Cheuk-hing, Yue Po-shang, Lau Yiu-fung, Chin Chan-sun, Chan Suet-nam, Lo Cho-chen, Chan Tee-fan, Wong Sze-nam, Li Yan-chen.

His Excellency said that although the Committee was supposed to be limited to British subjects only, the gentlemen whom Mr. Lau Chu Pak had nominated would prove of great assistance and the Committee most gratefully accepted their services. He asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. H. A. Cartwright proposed that Mr. A. W. Smith's name be added to the General Committee. The list as completed was then adopted by the meeting unanimously.

This was all the business of the general meeting. The Committee then sat to elect an executive. His Excellency pointing out that it had been found in the past that the Executive was somewhat unwieldy. The General Committee in future would have more work to do if they were going to adopt the suggestion that the representatives of different institutions and one or two districts were going to busy themselves organising and increasing the monthly subscription list. He suggested that the Executive should be composed of the following:—Chairman, the Treasurer, Mr. N. J. Stubb; the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Sandford; the Secretary, Hon. Mr. Hallifax; and Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald, Mr. H. M. Dyer, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Hon. Mr. Ho Fook. He thought that would be a strong working committee. The Hon. Mr. Sharp, on medical advice, was soon to leave the Colony, for a short term only they hoped, and he suggested that Hon. Mr. D. Landale would make a worthy successor, although he would find his position no sinecure.

The meeting agreed to this constitution of the Executive, after which the meeting closed.

Sir L. S. Jameson's Will.

The value of the estate of Sir Leonard Starr Jameson, Bart., is sworn at \$45,082. The testator left the whole of the property to his two brothers or in the event of either of them predeceasing him, then to the survivor. Only one brother, Mr. Middleton Jameson, survives. The will contains fewer than 150 words.

DOCTRINE OF THE FUTURE LIFE.

5. Faith and Sight.

Notes of a sermon by the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald at Union Church on Sunday Morning:—"We walk by faith, not by sight."—2 Cor. 5:8.

A symposium co-ordinating scientific, psychical and biblical research on the subject of immortality was lately published in London, and I take from a review an extract from an essay by a Dr. Hadfield on "The Mind and the Brain." His conclusion is that the mind is not dependent on the brain for existence but simply uses it as an instrument, and says further that "for the present, so far as Science is concerned, life after the grave is not a proved fact, but the evidence is sufficient to justify faith in it." Such faith, he goes on, is often looked upon as a specifically religious function, and suggests to the casual observer a process of "Swallowing what is incredible," but faith, he says, is just the religious counter-part of the "hypothesis" of the scientist, without which research would be impossible.

That supposition about faith being the swallowing of the incredible is widespread and infinitely mischievous. The Church is partly to blame, by presenting its doctrines, or some of them, in forms which defy intellectual comprehension. The casual observer also is to blame, for casual observation, which leads to nothing worth while in ordinary affairs, can scarcely be expected to indicate the path to eternal life. The first and chief commandment is that we love the Lord with the mind, no less than with other faculties. Credulity therefore, so far from honouring God, deprives Him of His due. Faith is not the negation or suppression of the mind, it is an activity of the mind. It is a caricature of Christian faith to represent it as the swallowing of things incredible. It is, in Bible language, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The writer of these definitions would have agreed that life after the grave is not a proved fact but one with sufficient justifying evidence.

Sir Oliver Lodge and certain other men of scientific eminence go farther and affirm that the thing is demonstrated in the strict scientific sense, but few of us I think, can take that view. The Apostle Paul believed there was cogent evidence and one (1 Cor. 15) he marshals and displays it, evidence from historic concordance, from natural analogy, moral instinct, and the faithfulness of God. But when all is said, he knows that his daily life with Christ is a walk by faith.

In so far as material contact or sense-communication goes, he is "Absent from the Lord," just as we are. For light and strength he must look not to things seen but to things unseen.

Now that is still true. If a man demands that I am to prove to him the reality of a spiritual world as one might that of another continent or another planet, I reply that I do not believe it can be done.

There are competent thinkers who take another view, but so far as I can judge, God has not yet seen fit to make the eternal world a "proved fact" in the strict sense recognised in physical science. It is to be presumed there are good reasons for this. Divine reserve, and I cannot but think that the longer we live in the fellowship of Christ the less anxious we are that the reserve should be broken.

It may be natural to think that if "heaven" and "hell" were visible to the senses, people would live in a way to win the one and avoid the other. I once heard a Manchester workman, arguing on this very subject, remark that the visibility of Strangeways goal did seem to keep people out of it. True, and if it did you would have no guarantee that those whom the sight deterred from crime were really better men. Keeping out of prison is not a question of possessing character, but of observing conventions. Remember the answer given to the man in the parable who asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his five brothers

"that they come not to this place of torment."—"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." It is quite possible that, granted the apparition, the five might have altered more or less their way of life. But at heart they might have been even worse than before—hypocritical, self-righteous, with enough "religion" to turn the humanity out of them, but not to plant the love of God in them. But when shall we learn that reforming people is not the same thing as improving them?

Turning to a more grateful aspect of the matter, it is inevitable that we should long at times for some tangible, indisputable, assurance of the spiritual realities in which we believe. Touch of hand now vanished, sound of voice now stilled—the poet does not misrepresent our human yearning, and what a difference, we sometimes think, if it could be gratified if but for a moment! Well, if God saw it was for our good it would be gratified, and we need not assert that there have never been cases in which it has not been gratified in part. But for the most part "It is good that a man should hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord," assured that those who have passed out of our care have not passed from God's care, and that He will do for them all that love can do, their Shepherd and Saviour in Christ.

I am asked to tell what I think about communication with the departed by such means as "Spiritualism." What I think may not be of any particular value, but you are entitled to the best of my judgment, and put shortly, my view is that it is better, normally, not to seek for such aids to faith, and that Christian apprehension is independent of them. That of course is not to condemn investigation of psychic phenomena or even alleged "spiritualistic" phenomena. Honest and reverent research on any subject should not be condemned from any quarter. Men of competence and character are entitled to a hearing when they report that after long and careful enquiry they conclude that communication is possible under certain conditions with those who have passed through the door of death into another state of existence. (The preacher then referred to a personal experience of his own many years ago which of itself would have precluded him from making sweeping denials.) There had been no mystery, no darkness, no professional "medium" in the case; collusion and imposture were out of the question. To this day he was wholly unable to account for what happened. I have kept quite a friendly eye on such matters all my life, and have long had a very clear conviction that it is best to leave them alone. I distrust these avenues of approach to things spiritual. I deprecate, in myself or in others, the disposition to "seek after a sign." I cannot persuade myself that what is called scientific demonstration of the spiritual by way of the senses is likely to be either very good science or very pure spirituality. I find it healthier to follow the lines suggested by reason and philosophy, which to my thinking are pretty clear as far as they go; to trust the deep instincts of human nature, which must come from God if there is a God; and to accept the lofty moral lead of the Christian revelation, bidding us set our hope on high and shape our lives in accord. My soul's anchor here and for any possible hereafter is the personality and pledged word of Jesus Christ, and I feel that if these do not suffice to draw my heart heavenwards that end is not going to be accomplished by messages from other sources in the great beyond. Sight may have been vouchsafed along the line of material manifestation to some who specially needed it. But I cannot help being sceptical about it, and am bound to say that many things one is asked to accept as scientific proof make a greater draft on one's credulity than anything in the Christian creeds. One is impressed, e.g. by the triviality of most of the reported communications. Surely the spirits of just men made perfect, or on the way to being perfected,

HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

Eighty Cases of Spotted Fever Last Week.

The weekly health return shows that during the week ended on the 6th instant there were 80 cases of spotted fever, with 60 deaths. The sufferers were one Portuguese and the rest Chinese. There were also three cases of enteric fever (one English and the rest Chinese) with one death; and two cases of small-pox (both Chinese) of which one ended fatally.

For the forty-eight hours ended yesterday there were 21 cases of spotted fever (all Chinese) with 19 deaths; one non-fatal occurrence of small-pox (Chinese) and three non-fatal cases of enteric fever (two British and one Japanese).

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to day by Mr. F. O. Jenkin, C.B. E., state:—

Requisitions for fresh issues of summer uniform and for boots must be in writing to Equipment Officer on or before Monday, the 15th instant.

Service Rifles. All members in possession of Service rifles are ordered to return same to Armory at Central on or before Friday, 12th instant.

Rifles are to be returned to this office before the 13th instant.

might be expected to make important and illuminating additions to our knowledge. But they never do.

Further, speaking as a Christian, I am struck by the fact that we hear little or nothing about Christ in most of these alleged revelations from the other side. Yet Christ is the way, the truth and the life. By Him we come unto the Father. Whatever heaven may be He is the centre of it, and for those of us at bay at a time when He is all in all here no perfect state is conceivable of which He is not the Centre. "I go," said He, "to prepare a place for you," and while the words are of course figurative they are not meaningless. Then also the state of existence suggested through the "mediums" is scarcely one which offers much attraction. It seems, generally, to have not a little in common with the vague, unsatisfying land of shades which the ancients assigned to their departed. We are told, e.g. that the young "lives taken" in the war are now eagerly beating at their barriers to get into touch with us here, distressed because we fail to seek them. I do not believe a word of it. It is clear to good sense and the spirit of the gospel to think of them as abiding contented in companionship and discipleship with the Shepherd of souls, who in the days of His flesh drew young men around Him and trained them for His use. Our own training is in progress here, and we can conceive nothing higher and nothing happier than that theirs should be proceeding yonder. Christian discipleship and service are the most satisfying human lot in this world, and if there is truth in the gospel they form the satisfaction also of the hereafter. "They follow the Lamb whither he goes. He goes, even as the Master said, 'Himself.' My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life, and no one is able to pluck them out of my hand."

In their sorrow and distraction to-day many bereaved families are said to be turning to these various alleged means of hearing our troubling hearts, that the soul outlasts the death of the body, and personality persists elsewhere than here. There is a better way, long known to us in Christ. Had that been followed more faithfully in the bright past there would be less stumbling in the present cloudy and dark day. "Return," says the voice Divine, "to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." Live more in the fellowship and service of the Saviour and you will hanker less and less for the "proof" the senses serve for; and will come more and more to understand in the inmost heart how true was the deep saying of the Master to His chosen and disciples. "Because you have seen Me and have believed? Blessed are they that have not seen Me and yet have believed."

THE RACECOURSE DISASTER.

CONCLUDING STAGE OF THE ENQUIRY.

POINTED ADDRESSES TO THE JURY.

The concluding stage of the enquiry into the Racecourse disaster was reached yesterday afternoon, when the jury was addressed by Mr. Bowley and Mr. Leo D'Almada. Yesterday we gave a brief summary of Mr. Bowley's earlier points and we now give his speech more fully:

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (for the matched contractors) said: In his opening remarks the Attorney-General informed you that technically you are here to enquire into the cause of the death of a single person, but he reminded you that over 500 persons had lost their lives in the same disaster. He also invited you to criticise any Government departments concerned, and to advise the Government as to measures to be adopted in the future. The scope of this enquiry is, therefore, much wider than an ordinary inquest, and as my clients, the matched contractors, are not only involved in the disaster, but are interested in establishing the fact that with proper precautions matcheds can be rendered reasonably safe, I propose in my remarks to you to allow myself more latitude than if I were merely defending them from a possible criminal charge.

But the scope of this enquiry has certain limits beyond which neither the Government nor the Attorney-General can authorise you to go. You are not authorised to enquire into the civil liabilities of the parties implicated, whether such liabilities arise out of their contractual relationships, or from any tortious act or neglect on their part; therefore, I do not propose to discuss the question of the civil liability of any person or department; those questions may hereafter be discussed in another place, and it would not be proper for this tribunal to express any opinion upon them.

It is your duty to find the cause of death, and if you were satisfied that there had been criminal negligence on the part of any person or persons, and that such criminal negligence was the immediate cause of death, you could bring in a verdict of manslaughter upon which that person or persons would be committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

Such a verdict is a very serious matter and should only be returned if you are satisfied upon positive legal evidence of the criminal negligence. Owing to the enlargement of the scope of the enquiry, a great many statements have been made which would not be admissible in a Court of Law, however useful they may be to you in pronouncing that criticism which you have been invited to pronounce. In arriving at a verdict, therefore, you should discard all theoretical and hearsay evidence, and consider only those facts which have been properly proved before you, but you may add to your verdict in a rider any expression of opinion with reference to any matter connected with the disaster provided you do not encroach upon the province of the Civil Law Courts.

A very clear summary of the Law of Criminal Negligence is to be found in Halsbury's "Laws of England" under the title Criminal Law, pp. 1182. It is as follows:—"A person upon whom the law imposes any duty, or who has taken upon himself any duty, tending to the preservation of life, and who grossly neglects to perform that duty or performs it with gross negligence and thereby causes the death of another person, is guilty of manslaughter. What amount of negligence is to be regarded as gross is a question of degree for the jury, depending on the circumstances of each particular case. The law does not require the utmost caution that can be used; it is sufficient if reasonable precaution, and what is usual and ordinary in such cases, be taken."

To render such a person guilty of manslaughter the negligence must have been the direct and immediate cause of the death, and there must have been personal misconduct or personal negligence on the part of the accused; he is not responsible, criminally, if the death was directly

caused in his absence by the negligence of his servants or others. "It is no defence that the death was caused by the negligence of others as well as of the prisoner; if death be occasioned by the act or default of several they are all guilty of manslaughter; but if the particular negligence imputed to the prisoner was not the proximate and efficient cause of the death, he cannot be convicted."

Now the persons upon whom a duty was imposed, or who took upon themselves a duty in connection with the preservation of the lives of the visitors to the matcheds may be divided into three groups:

- (a) the Government and its officers.
- (b) the Lessees and their assistants.
- (c) the Contractors and their employees.

Now I submit that the Government only exists for the benefit of the public, whose servants it is, and the special departments concerned with the safety of the public in Hongkong:

- (1) The Public Works Department, which includes the Building and Water Authorities.
- (2) The Police Department, which includes the Fire Brigade.

It is obviously the duty of the Public Works Department to provide as far as possible for the safety and convenience of the public and for the preservation of the property of the public; whilst it is the duty of the Police and Fire Brigade to endeavour to protect the persons and property of the public from the malicious or careless acts of individuals.

My clients as members of the public were entitled, I submit, to look to these two departments for reasonable advice and guidance in the design and construction of the matcheds, and for protection of their property from improper use, malicious injury, or damage by fire.

Now in what way did these two departments discharge their duties? Take first the Public Works Department. I shall show you that the Public Works Department had absolute control over the whole of the details of the letting of the sites and the arrangement of construction, and use of these matcheds.

The Director of Public Works has threefold authority, and consequently threefold responsibility in this matter.

First, as Custodian of Crown Land in general, and of the Wongneichung Recreation Ground in particular.

Secondly, as Building Authority.

Thirdly, as Water Authority.

First: The matcheds were built on land which is the property of the Crown, but has for many years been dedicated to the public for recreation. The Director of Public Works is entrusted with the preservation of this ground, and no building of any sort can be erected there without his consent. He is under no obligation to grant his consent at all, and if he gives his consent he can attach any conditions or restrictions which he may consider advisable.

Secondly: No matcheds of any sort can be erected in the Colony without the consent of the Building Authority under Sec. 203 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. Here I should like to digress for a moment and point out that although, strictly speaking, a matcheds is a "building" within the Ordinance, it is quite clear that it was never intended that the provisions as to the deposit of plans, etc., should apply to matcheds. The latter have a little code of their own consisting of Sec. 208 of the Ordinance and the regulations in Schedule H. The Building Authority has power to relax some of these conditions.

Thirdly: As Water Authority, the Director of Public Works has control of the water-supply, including the fire service. He must have known that the water-supply at the Happy Valley in its normal condition was absolutely inadequate to extinguish any fire, and he might have taken steps either to increase that supply or, at least, to have warned the Fire Brigade of its

defects, so that the latter might have gone at once to the sea for its supply instead of wasting time in trying to pump water out of a 3-inch pipe.

Now the only conditions that the Director of Public Works in his threefold capacity made with regard to these matcheds were not for the safety of the public, or the guidance or assistance of the lessees or contractors, but rather the reverse. For example, by insisting on a gangway and fence at the back he obstructed free access to the sheds and deprived the contractors of the right to use raking struts at the back of the row, and by allowing the sheds to be within 50 yards of the Golf Club-house and other buildings he increased the risk of fire.

No provisions were made with regard to the height of the sheds, the numbers to be accommodated, the position or size of the exits, staircases or gangways, or the use of the sheds (except a futile condition about gambling, which it was not intended to enforce), no precaution whatever was taken against fire, and no step was taken either to improve the water supply or inform the Fire Brigade.

The excuse is put forward that the same thing had been going on for some 40 years, but gentlemen, many things have happened in those 40 years, and within the last 20 years there have been a number of disastrous collapses and fatal fires in this Colony to remind the authorities of their duty to protect the public.

The questions of overcrowding and precautions against fire, which are of vital importance to my clients, are as old as Noah's Ark—the first building of which we have a record—and these questions have been considered by the authorities here quite recently in framing regulations for theatres and places of public entertainment.

The question of exits and gangways has been similarly considered and should be quite fresh in the minds of the authorities.

No security was taken for the due performance by the lessees of the conditions of the letting; the lessees were not even required to sign their names, or to give their individual names; the auctioneer accepted syndicate names, and could not tell us who the lessees actually were. He thought his comrade knew. Incidentally, this casual method of letting made it impossible in many cases to enforce the penalty provided by clause 6 of Schedule H, as you cannot convict a syndicate as such.

It was a condition of the letting that if the Police objected to any lessee his right might be cancelled, but as the names of the lessees were never communicated to the Police, this condition was as futile as that against gambling.

Having let the sites in this most unsatisfactory way, and enriched the Treasury to the extent of some \$14,000—the Government always takes good care of that part of the business—the next duty of the Public Works Department was to inspect the matcheds during and after construction. This duty devolved upon the Building Authority, whose staff was specially strengthened in 1906 in view of the collapses which had occurred before that date, and in order to obviate as far as possible such occurrences in future.

Now I have no complaint to make against the Inspector. We are told that he is a man of practical experience, and we know that he had no data (except his experience) to go upon; he had no instructions as to numbers to be accommodated, position or size of exits, or fire precautions. But the fact that he inspected and passed the buildings without a single objection or comment must have a considerable effect on my clients' position, as it lulled them to a sense of security. If the Government Inspector was satisfied, why should not they be so also?

It would no doubt have been a wise precaution if further inspections had been made on Monday and Tuesday mornings, as the lessees may have made alterations; they certainly introduced furniture and other weighty objects such as cash sweep cylinders, and they installed fires and made arrangements for cooking. Also, the crowd on Monday night easily here either carelessly or maliciously injured the structures. Seeing that the Government received \$14,000 for the letting of the sites, and that it was known that the public to an unknown number were using the sheds, it seems hardly too much to ask for a daily inspection by the Surveyor in whose district the sheds were.

Before leaving the Building

Authority I should like to refer to the question of tests. It appears that during the 30 years of British Government in this Colony no tests have been made either of the materials of matcheds, or of the load which they can carry. Professor Middleton Smith and others have pointed out the difficulties of material tests, but I imagine they were not insuperable, whilst the dead-load test might easily have been made and the live-load calculated, approximately at least, from it.

I have a few remarks to make about the Water Authority and then I will pass from the Public Works Department to the Police. The three-inch pipe was 20 years old—a fact which cannot have improved it. It serves not only the Golf Club and Jockey Club but, with the assistance of a 4-inch pipe, it serves Wongneichung Village and the supply which is pumped up by electric motor to Broadwood Road. All these factors (which were known to the Water Authority) must have tended to weaken the pressure on the fire hydrants. The Water Authority told us that fire hydrants were placed, not where the Fire Brigade wanted them, but where the Water Authority thought they should be placed, which seems rather a curious arrangement. He was not sure whether the diameter of the pipe was indicated at or near the hydrant, nor did he know whether the Fire Brigade had a map showing the position and size of the hydrants—two rather obvious precautions. He detailed the system of telephones and the posting of turn-cocks in the different districts, but he could not assure us that those arrangements had been communicated to the Fire Brigade. It appears that they were not, as the Water Authority's office was "not rung up, and the district turncock, instead of closing the valves to the East and increasing the pressure near the fire, seems to have been a mere spectator."

Now, gentlemen, I submit that it is obviously the duty of the Police to take steps for the regulation of a race crowd, and for the protection of persons and property in or near a public Racecourse. It is well-known that horse racing attracts all sorts and conditions of men, from the King to the card-sharper, and from the peer to the pick pocket, and when (as in this case) there is the added attraction of unlimited gambling, and the admitted fact that there are many bad characters in the Colony, the duty of the Police is intensified.

As soon as the races commenced my clients were entitled to a reasonable share of that protection which the Police were bound to give to property at the Racecourse.

Now it is clear that the Regular Police left the matcheds severely alone. Chief Inspector Kerr seemed to consider them outside the scope of the duty of himself and his men; he stated that none of them went inside the enclosure formed by the matcheds, the Golf Club, and the iron railings connecting the two. He was engaged in regulating the traffic in the public roads, and no doubt he was fully occupied.

The matcheds and their environment were left to the Detective Force and the District Watchmen.

Inspector Watt has told us how his men were posted, and it appears that there were only two Chinese detectives on duty for the range of matcheds—as those privately engaged in Mr. Blake's shed can hardly be reckoned. Two men in plain clothes in a crowd of this sort could not possibly see all that was going on, even with the help of two District Watchmen.

It is noticeable that no members of the Police Reserve were called upon for duty at any part of the Race Course: if such a call had been made, no doubt they would have responded to it with their usual alacrity and efficiency.

Next I come to the question of precautions against fire, and this appears to me the most serious question of all.

The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade frankly admits that no precautions of any kind whatever were taken.

As an excuse for the absence of precautions he puts forward the pleas of (1) Old Custom, (2) that nobody asked for them and (3) that any precautions that could have been taken would have been practically useless, as the sheds that it is impossible to stop a matcheds fire.

In the latter theory he is supported by a number of members of the Fire Brigade, both regulars and volunteers.

Now if it was really the belief of the Fire Brigade that a matcheds fire could not be stopped, it seems

to me that it was the obvious duty of any member of that Brigade and of any officer of the police, who noticed that cooking was going on in the matcheds, to take immediate steps towards stopping that most dangerous practice.

A report to the Captain Superintendent of Police, and a warning from him to the lessees would probably have been sufficient.

It is no excuse to say that there was no rule against cooking, as in cases of imminent danger the police should act at once for the public safety, and it can hardly be supposed that such a warning would have been disregarded.

I think you will agree with me that if the heads of the police were ignorant of the existence of cooking, all those members of the force who knew the fact failed to report it gravely neglected a duty which they owed to the public in general, and to my clients amongst others.

But I don't think the theory that precautions are useless is to be taken literally, it has been admitted by several witnesses of experience that buckets of water in the shed might have been of great value, and that a hose laid in position and full of water kept in readiness might have subdued the fire in its initial stages; and that view is supported by more than one independent witness.

Now there was no reason why these two very obvious and simple precautions should not have been taken.

"Old custom" is no excuse, particularly in view of the fact that the Supt. of the Fire Brigade has to see every day that similar precautions are taken in Theatres, and other places of public entertainment, permanent and temporary, European and Chinese.

The posting of a despatch box with a couple of firemen at the Golf Club would not have seriously weakened the Brigade, and a temporary connection might have been made with the hydrant by the Monument, under the road, so as not to block the traffic. Sufficient for one hose might have been kept up, by partially closing the valves as described by the Water Authority.

The Members of the Fire Brigade, who undertake a very arduous and perilous duty, were commendably prompt in coming into action, especially the officer who fetched a despatch box in a motor car from No. 1 Station, but they seem to have been lacking either in information or direction in the use of their appliances.

If they had known, as they should have done, that the hydrant by the Monument was served by a 3-inch pipe only, they would hardly have disconnected the motor pump and connected the motor pump to that supply. If they had realised, as they might have done, that the fresh water supply in the neighbourhood was quite inadequate for the Motor pump they would have called for the Water Float at once. As it was the Float did not arrive until after 4.45 and was not in action until 4 o'clock, one hour after the outbreak.

Here I should like to remark that there seems to be no adequate reason why the Water Float should not be in direct telephonic communication with the Fire Station, nor why under the circumstances of this case the Float should not have been lying with steam up at Observation Wharf, whence she could have very quickly steamed to any point in the Harbour.

If all or any of these precautions had been taken it is quite possible that, even if the fire were not quenched in its initial stages, the work of rescue might have been much facilitated by the use of one or more strong jets of water, and the person concerning whose death you are enquiring might, for all we know, have been saved, with many others.

I gathered that Mr. Measer and Mr. Wright both thought that it was their duty only to enforce regulations and not to initiate them, that they could not be expected to be wise before the event, but I submit, Gentlemen, that every public officer entrusted with the care of the safety of the Public should always be on the lookout for possible risks, and should suggest to the "Power that Be" any new regulations which he considers desirable, and should take steps to ensure that his suggestions receive full consideration instead of being consigned to a convenient pigeon hole.

I have already pointed out that the Director of Public Works and the Capt. Supt. of Police had full power in this particular matter to make any regulations or conditions which they might (after conferring together) deem necessary without waiting

for any legislative authority.

The next class who took upon themselves a duty towards the safety of the public were the lessees, who for their own ends voluntarily undertook to erect sheds, and invited the public at large to come to their sheds, either to see the Races or to try their luck in the "Parimutuel or Cash Sweep," subject of course to the Lessees' commission on the sale of tickets.

I have already suggested that it would have been better to let the sites to substantial individuals only, subject to security, and you have heard that many of the sheds were let to syndicates, some of them composed of clerks, motor readers, office boys and coolies in the Public Works Department. Whether it is desirable for Government Servants to have a share in these gambling booths is a question which I do not propose to discuss.

These lessees had absolute control over the design, dimensions, construction and arrangement of the sheds, provided only that they did not overstep the limits of the Site Plan. They controlled the supply of electric light, also cooking arrangements, exits, staircases and counters, also the admission to, and use of the sheds. My clients could not interfere in any of these details, except to the extent pointed out by His Worship, namely, to warn the lessees against a design which would result in an obviously dangerous shed from a structural point of view.

Mr. Bowley went on to recapitulate the design and the arrangements of each shed, with the evidence relating to the first outbreak of fire. He continued:

Now all these sheds 1, 2 and 3 were open to the public in unlimited numbers: Cash sweeps were drawn in most of them, and naturally moved from point to point as their attention was attracted by the Races and the gambling alternately, subjecting the sheds to the complicated strains of a very lively load.

If you thought that any lessee permitted overcrowding and thereby caused a collapse you might consider that to amount to negligence. Similarly if you think that any lessee by careless use of cooking apparatus started any of the fires which undoubtedly caused many deaths, you might bring in a verdict of manslaughter against that person.

But I venture to submit that my clients could not be held responsible for any overcrowding, or for any misuse of fire: they handed over the sheds to the lessees on completion, and had no control over the use to which the sheds were put.

Before dealing with the position of the Contractors I should like to mention the electric light.

The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade is responsible for the safety of the lighting of theatres, etc., and there seems no reason why he should not have been consulted with reference to the lighting of these sheds.

Whilst you will no doubt have every confidence in the work put in by the Hongkong Electric Company as detailed by Mr. Graham, you may, I think, view with apprehension the fact that some of the lights were installed by Chinese without supervision. This was the work of the lessees and had nothing to do with my clients.

It was the duty of the contractors to construct reasonably safe sheds according to their skill and experience, but in the words of Halsbury "it is sufficient if reasonable precaution, and what is usual and ordinary in such cases, be taken." They were not bound to insure the users of the sheds against extraordinary risks, such as fire, panic, overcrowding or negligent or malicious injury to the structures.

Mr. Bowley dwelt on the substantial nature of the Sze Hop firm and the experience of its works. The firm has a well earned reputation which its members are not likely to imperil by scamped work or faulty material. With regard to the latter you have heard that they spent \$16,000 on new material last year, some 50% above their expenditure of previous years. Mr. Wright and Mr. Sara and all other witnesses who saw the sheds express themselves as perfectly satisfied with the material and general appearance of the sheds at the Race Course which did not collapse, and you have every day an opportunity of seeing the substantial nature of my clients' work at the Old Mercantile Bank building in Ice House Street.

It has been suggested that the material was weakened by the drought, but there is no evidence on

that point with regard to these matcheds, and I think you will admit from your own experience that although drought may injuriously affect squared timber, it has little effect on these round poles, which are practically in their natural condition.

The construction of these sheds was carried out in the most public manner possible, in the most public place in the Colony: there was no inducement to jerrybuilding, as the contractors (unlike the ordinary builders) reserved the right to remove the materials after the Races, and it was to their interest therefore to guard against any breakage or damage.

The design of the sheds has been criticised and an attempt has been made by several to throw all responsibility for the design upon the contractors.

I submit that this is unfair: the contractors were not given a free hand: they were restricted within certain narrow lines by the Public Works Department: in particular, they were not allowed to put sloping shores at the back, and in front they were pressed as close as possible to the Racing Track. If the contractors had not been restricted by the narrowness of the site it cannot be doubted that they would have inserted on each side and angle of the sheds those raking shores which are such a familiar feature in Chinese matcheds construction.

They were bound to follow their various employers' instructions with regard to dimensions, and arrangements, staircases and exits: to provide as much opening in front as possible and large entrances for the crowds at the back.

They received no guidance, advice or assistance from the Public Works Department or from any professional man, but had to work entirely by rule of thumb, and the light of experience.

I submit that there is not a shadow of evidence to show that they in any way failed in their duties.

I now come to the Collapse itself. We have had this described by many observers from different standpoints. Most of them could only obtain side-long views of the disaster, and in looking along a row from any position it is most difficult to locate any point accurately.

The person who had the best view of the collapse and has given the clearest account of it is Mr. Hodgson, who was in front of the row and obtained a more or less central view of it.

Mr. Bowley related the stories of other witnesses, including that of several corroborated by Mr. Hodgson. He went on:

These witnesses are typical, and their evidence goes to show panic, collapse and fire all happening, if not at the same moment, at any rate within an extraordinarily short interval of time.

It seems impossible to determine whether the panic caused the collapse, or whether the collapse caused the panic and the panic caused collapse, or whether the collapse caused both panic and fire.

The original cause of Panic may be of the most trifling nature, but once started it spreads like wild fire and cannot be stopped.

I think there are many indications that on the 28th February the crowd was in such a mental condition that a panic was extremely likely to occur.

Shortly before that date the public nerves had received severe shocks: first the Gresson Street Affray, which might cause any one to expect robbery and violence at any moment; Secondly the earthquake which caused great excitement amongst the people generally.

The main earthquake shock was followed by a number of slighter shocks on successive days, until people began to imagine earthquakes at the slightest movement or noise, and there is evidence that the Chinese expected a third disaster.

This nervous condition may have accounted for the extraordinary story of the boy who heard people in the streets calling out a warning against going to the matcheds and for the pre-arrangement which led Mr. Ho War Tong to warn his family and acquaintances to avoid the matcheds.

Then the outbreak of a new disease, the mysterious spotted fever, was another factor producing nervousness. Many witnesses have testified to this nervous condition, and many have told us that they thought at first the collapse was produced by an earthquake, whilst Mr. de Silva expected the earth to open its mouth and swallow him up.

(Continued on page 10.)

RACECOURSE DISASTER.

(Continued from Page 9.)

Then the idea that the lashings were being cut created a panic in the breast of Mr. Li Po Lung, a worthy gentleman of great intelligence, so that he forthwith withdrew himself and his family from the shed. For the purpose of my argument with regard to panic it doesn't matter whether the cutting actually took place or not, so long as people thought it was going on.

The cutting theory should not, I submit, be discussed lightly; there is nothing impossible in it; the evidence of Li Po Lung and his son is that they heard the sound of cutting with a knife; a very characteristic sound quite distinct from the sound of breaking, and the boy was familiar with it from watching bamboo men at work.

Colonel Young's statement that it involved the suicide of the cutter does not render the theory incredible; there is even a historical precedent for such a death in the story of Samson, who brought down upon himself the house of the Philistines at Gaza, by pulling out the uprights, and slew at his death more than he slew in his life.

And we can very well imagine that a few desperadoes bent on robbery might have seized the opportunity, when all the spectators were looking at the ponies assembling for the 5th Race, or watching (as one witness told us) the drawing of the Champion Sweep, of cutting the lashings of the cross bracings in one or more of the basements of the sheds. Such lashings are not in the middle of the shed, but near the edge, and it would be quite easy to cut with one of those sharp knives which the bamboo men use, and to slip out before the shed fell. It would be still easier to vanish in the panic-stricken mob, with much of the cash that must have been scattered about. We are told that much cash vanished, we have no information as to how much was burnt and how much stolen.

Of course no good policeman will admit the existence of a crime unless he has a clue, and no clue to the matched cutters has been found—the police therefore are bound to push-pouch this theory.

If any damage was done either intentionally or accidentally to the structure which caused the partial collapse of a floor, that would be quite sufficient to start a panic with the consequent rush to the exits and the concentration of the live load in a portion of the structure not prepared to receive it, and the consequent collapse of the sheds.

Mr. Bowley touched on the evidence as to the fire starting: "It is obvious that any one of these fires may have caused panic," and it is probable that each of them caused a number of deaths; and for such deaths my clients cannot be held responsible.

It is argued that the pile of bodies at No. 8 and the condition of the bodies proves that the collapse commenced there, but there is no medical evidence to support this theory.

The death in the case before you was due to suffocation and that might have resulted either from collapse or fire; and Dr. Macfarlane has told you that the position of the legs does not necessarily point to suffocation.

I suggest that the pile of bodies at No. 8 was caused by a combination of causes. We know that the sheds fell towards No. 8, but the top-floor of No. 8 fell in the opposite direction—this gives us a double quantity at that point. Such congestion would increase the panic and the difficulty of getting out. The shed itself is so strongly constructed with a forest of uprights, cross braces, staircases etc. that its very strength again added to the difficulties of extrication. Finally we know that the fiercest fire started near this spot, and rendered the chances of escape from this mass of struggling humanity practically nil. It does not follow however that any of these persons were killed by collapse, all or any of them may have been killed by the fire. The pile of bodies at that point also points to the fact that sheds 8 and 9 were seriously overcrowded.

Finally we come to the evidence of "experts," professional and amateur.

I will first deal with those who criticised the construction of the matched sheds unfavourably.

With all respect to Colonel Ward I venture to submit that he gave his opinion somewhat hastily.

You will remember that the gallant Colonel came into Court, glanced at the model of No. 16, and

said, "there is the cause of the collapse." Now No. 16 by itself is like a brick standing on end—it is top-heavy; but the range of matched sheds taken as a whole were like a brick lying on its broad side which is not top-heavy. At every point of the row the base was broader than the height.

Then we were told that the structure was faulty for want of diagonal braces, and owing to the fact that the floors were on different levels; but it was subsequently demonstrated that the provision of diagonal bracing is a question of degree, and that you must regard the structure as a whole, and remember that a diagonal brace at any point helps to resist the thrust of the whole range towards that point.

Mr. Mosser told us that he had studied mathematics and that if you placed a series of horizontals on a series of perpendiculars and then gave a lateral thrust the structure would collapse: a fairly elementary principle which most of us learnt in our nurseries.

He totally ignored the lashings, but at last he had to admit that each lashing afforded a certain amount of resistance to a lateral thrust, which amount must be multiplied by the number of points lashed.

Colonel Young has had no experience in matched construction, but he has built bridges for artillery, and was strong on the theory of diagonal bracing. Now whatever stresses these matched sheds had to stand, they were not asked to stand that of a tank or heavy howitzer crossing them, or any of the special strains to which bridges are subject; and we have evidence that the braces were sufficient for ordinary purposes.

Col. Young also criticised the apparent absence of a strut in continuation of the line of the back of No. 9, but I have since pointed out to you that there is a very substantial strut there, which, though not in line, is so near the line as to afford considerable support. Also that each of the diagonal braces, sloping from N.E. to S.W. in the range from 14 to 9 takes up the thrust as it comes along and relieves No. 9 of the greater part of it.

Professor Middleton Smith and Mr. Dyer both said that, having no data to go upon, they could only rely on the experience of the contractor.

Mr. Chatham, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Wright and Mr. Sara who have all had practical experience in matched structures, all gave it as their considered opinion, that the matched sheds were sufficiently strong for all ordinary purposes.

Mr. Denison, an absolutely independent witness whose experience in the Colony is longer than that of any other witness, totally disagreed with Colonel Ward's theory that the floors being on different levels afforded no support, in fact he went so far as to say that the contrary was the case, and that since the floors were lashed to the uprights, the difference in level afforded the latter more points of support.

Finally Mr. Bird, who has had very considerable experience of matched structures, and who gave his evidence in a very clear and convincing way, after a careful examination of all the data before him, laid special stress on the principle that you must treat the structure as a whole, and the only improvement he could suggest was the restoration of those raking struts at the rear which the Public Works Department (in order to protect the turf) had forbidden the contractor to erect.

One final word about "the 3 stored sheds" upon which a great deal of criticism has been passed.

Mr. Wright has pointed out that nearly all the sheds in 1914 were of 3 stories, as they had high basements. The increase in 1918 was therefore trifling, and in 1918 there were even sheds of 4 stories, which stood in safety.

In conclusion I submit, gentlemen, that the only verdict you can find on the legal evidence put before you is that the cause of death was suffocation, which was either caused by collapse, or fire, and that whatever neglect there may have been on the part of others, whether in the shape of omitting precautions, permitting overcrowding or recklessness using fire for cooking, there is no evidence of any criminal negligence on the part of the contractors, who honestly and to the best of their knowledge and skill with good material and workmanship constructed sheds which would stand any strain which could reasonably be anticipated.

As suggestions have been invited for the guidance of the Government in future I venture to submit some suggestions, as follows:

1. That the Conditions of Letting Race-matched sites should be revised by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police with a view to the safety of the Public and submitted to the Legislative Council for approval.

2. That sites should be let to responsible individuals only subject to a cash deposit as security for compliance with the conditions, which should be signed by lessee.

3. That the gangway at the back of the sheds should be widened and kept clear of staircases, iron railings, hawkers and other obstructions.

4. That shores should be allowed at the back of the sheds, precautions being taken to protect the turf.

5. That the height, floor space, internal arrangement and lighting of, and the exits from the sheds should be approved by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police before erection.

6. That the number to be accommodated on each floor should be fixed by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police and conspicuously displayed on each floor, the lessee being subject to a penalty if overcrowding occurs.

7. That no fire or light (except electric properly fixed) shall be allowed in any shed in the row. A properly isolated shed might be provided for refreshments.

8. That the sheds should be passed by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police before the Races, and inspected by their officers daily during the Races, and regularly patrolled by the Police.

9. That no counters or other provision for the sale, drawing or cashing of tickets should be allowed on any upper floor.

10. That a detachment of the Fire Brigade with hose ready fixed should be in attendance at the Races.

11. That until a proper fire service has been installed at the Race Course arrangements should be made for an immediate and adequate supply of sea water.

12. That the Water Authority should confer with the Captain Superintendent of Police as to the position and size of Fire Hydrants, which should be periodically tested by the Fire Brigade.

13. That the Fire Brigade should be supplied with maps and instructed as to the position and size of hydrants, the stations and duties of turncocks, the use of the water authority's telephone system &c.

14. That the Fire Float should be in direct telephonic communication with the Fire Station, and the Race Course in direct telephonic communication with the Central Police Station by Government Telephones in each case.

I thank you gentlemen for the kind attention you have given and I apologise for the time I have thought it my duty to occupy.

Mr. D. V. Stevenson said he did not propose to deal with all of the evidence, which had been very fully and ably dealt with by Mr. Bowley. He also did not wish to offer any criticism on the action of the Government, the Public Works Department or the Fire Brigade. His own interest in the proceedings, as he thought the jury knew, was on behalf of the lessee of the United Stand, and he thought the evidence clearly showed, at least he submitted, that the evidence tended to show, that as regards sheds 4, 5 and 6 no negligence or want of care could be assigned to those people. As Mr. Blake had told them, the stands had been built in the same manner for the past thirteen years and had double uprights leading up to the upper floor. Mr. Blake had also said that they had solid wooden counters provided by themselves and not by the contractors. They also had three large water barrels on the ground floor and eight fire buckets. There was also provision for controlling the spectators, two watchmen being stationed at the door, while there were two detectives in the stand during the whole of the race meeting. As in the case of other sheds no charge was made for admission. Accordingly, he, Mr. Stevenson, thought that the Coroner and jury would come to the conclusion that as far as his clients were concerned they had taken all reasonable precautions, such as were ordinary or customary, or usually taken in looking after the interests of the public who attended in their stand. There was only one suggestion that he wished to make—that his clients asked him to

make—and that was that in future if they were to have these matched sheds erected for future meetings, the Government should direct that the iron fence at the back of the sheds by the Golf Club, and he thought also the six foot fence, the matched fence should be entirely removed. That was the only suggestion that he had been asked to lay before the jury.

Mr. Leo D'Almada said he did not propose to address at any great length or to recapitulate the evidence, because Mr. Bowley had already read to them what he considered and what they would probably consider a very full resume of the evidence, making it very fresh in their minds. But he felt he would have failed in his duty to his clients, some of whom were lessees and others the families of victims, if he did not ask them to do what he considered the law empowered them to do. At the outset of the enquiry they heard from the learned Attorney General that the Government desired criticisms and also criticisms against the Government's own departments. That being the case he proposed very briefly to touch upon what he considered the salient facts that had been brought out; but he thought that it would not be out of place if he recalled to the minds of the Jury the oath that they had taken before the enquiry.

Mr. D'Almada read the oath and continued: If their duty was to condemn anyone they would not hesitate to do so. They as men of position in this Colony, as men of high talent and understanding, would not hesitate to do their duty, the duty which was unfortunately placed upon them by selection to the Bench. However stern or distasteful, he had no doubt that they would do it, because they owed it as a duty to the unfortunate victims of the disaster, to the relatives, to the public to the Government and to the Crown, and he did not doubt that they would not shrink from fixing the responsibility on any party whom they considered to be responsible.

Touching on some of the evidence Mr. D'Almada reviewed the system followed in the letting of the sheds and went on to say that in view of the Building Ordinance and in view of the permit issued to the lessees it was the duty of the Building Authority to see that the matched sheds were built in accordance with provisions provided by law and he contended that in view of the permits the Building Authority came within the definition of what was called the statutory duty imposed by law. If there was negligence by that Department the responsibility fell upon them. Whether that responsibility amounted to criminal responsibility, which was a question he was not going to lay any stress upon, because he agreed with Mr. Bowley when the latter said that their duty was to consider the criminal negligence, not the civil negligence of any party. They would agree that the Building Ordinance was passed for the safety of the public, and penalties were provided for neglecting it. They had in that Court had many people summoned by the Department for omitting to do this or that thing, and if the public were liable to prosecution for omissions on their part or for any contravention of the Ordinance, he submitted that the Building Authority was itself responsible for any omission on its part in not seeing that the provisions of the Ordinance were properly applied in all cases.

The Coroner: I don't know whether you can make that clearer. Mr. Bowley was not prepared to argue that there was a statutory obligation on the Building Authority.

Mr. D'Almada: I disagree with him.

The Coroner: You find that obligation in the terms of the permit.

Mr. D'Almada: Yes.

The Coroner: The terms of the permit are that the person who takes on the permit must comply with the Ordinance. It does not go so far as to say that the Building Authority must enforce the provisions of the Ordinance.

Mr. D'Almada: No, but the Ordinance says that the Public Works Department or the Building Authority must see that any matched shed to be built must be built in accordance with the provisions of Schedule H, or the proper regulations under the Ordinance.

The Coroner: According to the Ordinance it can be well argued that plans should have been submitted, but as to whether there was

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QUESTION B.—Is the winning number amongst them?

ANSWER B.—Of Course!

QUESTION C.—If so what are you going to do with the proceeds?

ANSWER C.—Give 1/3rd to Charity and pouch the balance.

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any statutory obligation on the Department to inspect these sheds—Mr. D'Almada: Yes, there was.

Asked for the section Mr. D'Almada said he did not know that there was any direct section on the point.

The Coroner: If the Building Authority has omitted any duty it has omitted the duty to inspect the sheds. Mr. D'Almada: I submit that the Building Authority has not acted in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. He himself said that he has not applied the law in this particular case.

The Coroner: He is at fault in not calling for a plan!

Mr. D'Almada: He has not called for a plan and he has allowed the lessees to build any sort of structure they liked, or any height, or of any description so long as they did not encroach on the adjoining land.

Resuming: Mr. D'Almada said that regarding the stability of the sheds, irrespective of what he had already said regarding the responsibility of the Building Authority, there was also a duty at common law upon the matched contractor to see that all due care was taken and proper materials used in the construction of the sheds. He agreed with many witnesses that there were not many persons in the Colony who knew as much as these experienced matched builders of the art or science of matched building. He submitted with every confidence that there was no single architect in the Colony who really knew the art and science of matched construction. Such being the case, these things were left entirely to the matched contractor, who alone knew anything about them at all. As to the contractors' responsibility then, it was part of his duty to make representations to the Building Authority or responsible officer, if he knew that the prohibited struts on the Golf Club side were necessary. This Mr. D'Almada's submission was that the contractor was equally responsible for not having made such representations, because the contractor was the man who knew all about

it and who should have seen that the Government gave him all safe-guard. As to the Captain Superintendent of Police, he personally submitted that while the Captain Superintendent of Police was not informed of anything regarding these matched sheds, it was true that the latter knew all about it, although he had no official information whatsoever, and as regarded the Fire Brigade he quite agreed with Mr. Bowley that they should have been there with all the necessary appliances. The fact that certain lessees had fire places did not put any responsibility on them because there was no prohibition against it, and as regards the limiting of accommodation they received no notice to limit the accommodation, and there was no reason why they should not allow anyone and as they were respectable people. Finally he thought it was his duty to ask the Jury to consider the evidence very seriously and in coming to their verdict if they should consider that the responsibility rested on anybody's shoulders they would have no hesitation in giving their verdict accordingly.

The Coroner: I don't quite understand, Mr. D'Almada. Are you advising the jury to find a verdict of criminal negligence against the contractor?

Mr. D'Almada: I am not here to ask the Jury to find a verdict one way or another but to place before the Jury what I consider to be the law on the subject and what I consider to be their duty and responsibility in the enquiry. What I should like to add about statutory duty is this (Mr. D'Almada quoted from Halsbury):

The Coroner: Do I understand Mr. Bowley to argue that the contractor would be cleared of all liability if it can be shown that death was due to fire and not to collapse?

Mr. Bowley: I don't think the contractor can be held responsible for fire.

The Coroner: Supposing he can show that the fire was the final fact

do you think that that clears the contractor of all liability?

Mr. Bowley: I submit so. The cause of death must be the immediate cause of death and if the immediate cause of death was fire that was not a risk contemplated by the contractor.

Mr. Wakeman not wishing to address again, the Coroner intimated that the summing up would be given on Friday.

The New French Minister.

The new French Minister to Peking, M. A. Bopp, will shortly arrive in Shanghai en route for the capital to take up office. He is the N. C. Daily News. In order to welcome M. Bopp, and to find an opportunity of meeting him, the French community will entertain the Minister to dinner at the French Municipal Hall on April 9.

Clergyman's 5 Sons Killed.

P. W. Bushby, of Fries-borne, has received news of the death from wounds of his son, R. A. man Leonard Bushby, in October another son, Charles Bushby, died from wounds in the East African Campaign in September, 1915; Sergeant Bernard Bushby was killed in France in November, 1917; Lieut. Col. H. R. Bushby was killed in France and in November, 1918; Second-Lieut. Frank Bushby was also killed in France.

Patriotism Curbed.

Says the N. C. Daily News of the 4th inst.—"Among representative bodies of men in the Far East who have strongly felt the call of the war are the British employees of the China Merchants S. N. Co. Every one of them has pressed his claims to be allowed to go and serve in any capacity he may—only to be told that he is doing his duty best in the war by staying where he is. Some have gone; the rest were not allowed to leave their ships."

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COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Gold and Silver.

According to Messrs. Samuel, Montagu & Co.'s circular of February 21, the United States by April would supply Mexico with 21,000,000 in gold. Mexico in turn would remove the restrictions on the export of silver, which would increase supplies of the white metal as the year advances. Note is made of the development of the gold mining industry in Korea. The value of the gold mined and exported each year has risen from Y.946,235 to Y.15,983,986 in 1916—a total increase of 70 per cent. So substantial an advance indicates that the production from this hitherto little exploited country may become eventually a considerable factor in the world's gold production.

Shanghai Coal Market.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co., in their report, dated Shanghai, 28th March, state:—Japan Coal:—There is quite a lot of enquiry from native dealers on this market on account of the enormous stocks now on the spot they are clearing of entering into forward contracts and consequently there has not been much actual business done during the past fortnight and only small lots of "spot" cargo have changed hands. Although the output from the mines in Japan is being pretty well maintained, stocks at shipping ports are diminishing owing to the shortage of rolling stock on the railways and this is having the effect of keeping prices up in Japan. East Asia Coal:—All the output from these mines available for export overseas is being sent to Japan and there is consequently very little left for China Coast ports. Kaiping Coal:—This market has been quiet but firm during the last fortnight. Owing to the possibility of Japan entering the war it may become difficult to secure tonnage, and it would be advisable for contractors to store as much coal as their yards will hold to cover this contingency.

American Consumption of Rubber.

The market in rubber shares has drifted into a deadly dull condition, from which it does not seem likely to emerge until the price of the commodity takes a turn for the better. Mr. E. L. Killick in the *Financial* of February 1. As matters stand, the very best that the producing

companies can do will be to maintain their dividends, while not a few may be forced temporarily to curtail their disbursements. With outputs restricted, costs higher, and heavier taxation distributed profits can hardly be maintained unless compensation is forthcoming in the form of better selling prices for the commodity. It is true that in the case of the young producers smaller earnings will not necessarily involve reduced dividends, because the excess-profits taxes all above a certain margin of profit. The old companies, however, that escape liability for duty, will be hard put to it to keep up their dividends "unless" selling conditions improve. But, although the dominating factors at the moment are not encouraging, the more distant outlook in the industry is hopeful enough, and, as rubber share investment is not based on week to week fluctuations in the price of the commodity, shareholders in sound undertakings can afford to ignore the present rather depressed air of the market. Perhaps the most striking feature of the crude rubber statistics for recent years is the way in which America has absorbed the great annual increase in the world's supply. During the past three years production of rubber has increased annually by about 50,000 tons. For 1916 the world's output was 158,700 tons. The next year it advanced to 201,800 tons, and in 1917 the supply was approximately 275,000 tons, of which nearly 80 per cent. consisted of plantation rubber. American consumption shows an annual increase that is almost identical. In 1916 the United States took about 116,500 tons followed last year by 175,000 tons, which means that, as against an increase in the world's supply of 55,000 tons in 1917, the American demand advanced by 58,500 tons. In considering these figures, it has to be borne in mind that at the time war broke out the Central Empires were taking about 25,000 tons of rubber annually, and that in normal circumstances their yearly requirements would probably have been nearer 35,000 tons. By this date Germany and Austria have been practically out of the market for the last three years, and yet the world's output has all come into consumption. The inference is that a surplus in the supply, far from being imminent, is not even threatened. The difficulties that beset the rubber market at the present juncture are all contained in the problem of tonnage.

THE CAREER OF AN AIRMAN.

(By Lieut. R.B. Fricker, R.F.C.)

"Shall I join the Air Service?" "Shall my boy be an airman?" These are questions being discussed all over the country. The fascination of flying, the romance of this 20th Century achievement has taken firm hold of every young Briton to day.

With the development of the Air Service at the present time, flying men are being recruited from the civilian ranks—young men just attaining military age. Previous military training is not essential, and, at present, no technical knowledge of aeronautics or engineering is expected.

The Air Service cadet, before he makes the acquaintance of an aerodrome, spends a lot of time learning the fundamentals of his new profession. He goes back to classes and books again, studying up all the written knowledge of this new science. He may spend weeks, perhaps months, in some old college town, and at the end of the term he may pass out to become a pilot, but not before his mentors are satisfied that he has a thorough knowledge of the theory of flight, the mechanics of aircraft, and the inner workings of a rotary engine.

His days are spent in work shops where, for his special benefit, the thousand and one things that go to make up a modern aeroplane are dissected: cylinders, carburetors and planes, instruments and magnets, all are carefully studied in their component parts; while on the walls hundreds of diagrams explain the function of each particular part. He will attend classes in map-reading, and take notes at lectures on the navigation of aircraft by day and night.

Wireless plays an important part in the co-operation of aircraft with artillery. Walk into the classroom set apart for signalling, and you can imagine yourself in the instrument room of a telegraph exchange. Here the two spend hours a day buzzing out the Morse code.

To the impatient young man who longs to explore that new element, whether the romance of war has climbed today, all this seems to be superfluous; but to the authorities who have built up the Royal Flying Corps, it is the most important part of his training. The airman must

earn for himself the possibilities—and limitations—of aircraft. It is the pilots who are most deeply versed in their craft who give the best accounts of themselves overseas; the men who are to hold the air and win their way to the top must be masters of their trade.

The cadets' destination now is one of the many aerodromes that, no broom-like, have sprung up all over England. A few miles drive from the village station brings him past a line of low, grey hangars in front of which stand the machines that are to take him into a new realm of adventure. Next morning at dawn he is baptised in the air. Muffled in flying clothes, he and his instructor will skim up over the morning mist to the region of new sensations, and here you will find him whenever the weather permits.

Between flying times more lectures or signalling practice will fill out his day.

In the mess, after dinner, his education will go on. The day's adventures will be exchanged, garnished with details of spins and loops, nose dives and idees fixes. Handbooks may still keep to the language of the designers, and parts of aeroplanes will be called fuselages and nacelles, ailerons and cellules, but no handbook will pass in the jargon of the airman. To him propellers and controls will always be windmills and jetties, and his machines will always be remembered as bloater and ramplier, pupa and tophins, elephants and camels.

His "first solo" stage will soon be over, and then comes the test before his C.O., which will qualify him for promotion to another Squadron, where his further training will be carried on. The cadet's new Squadron will probably fly a faster type of tractor machine. Here at first he will be relegated to the observer's seat for more dual control, until another "first solo" effort comes round. His next few weeks will be spent in getting at home in the air, till, in time loops and spirals will be part of his daily achievements. If he shows great promise, his C.O. may see in him the makings of a "first class air fighter," and pass him on to try his skill in fighting records, high powered single-seater machines.

With the earning of his "wings" will come courses on machine guns and bombing, more country trips to strange aerodromes, and night flights, and his training at home is quite complete.

"Overseas" is the Mecca of the flying man. Promotion comes quickly to the pilot abroad, whether it be France or Italy, Palestine or Mesopotamia. Ferrying and instructing are jobs reserved for pilots who have "done their bit" overseas.

An airman's life is not all flying, any more than a soldier's life is all fighting. There are still a few observer-pilots, who went abroad early in the war, who can turn up their log-books and count their hours in the air by hundreds; but such men are very few. There is now a limit to the number of months a pilot may spend abroad, and it will not be many months before he is back in England again, making the acquaintance of the new aeroplanes that have been evolved since he left Blighty.

EXCHANGE.

SELLING.

T/T Demand	3-14
30 d/a	3-16
60 d/a	3-14
4 m/s	3-16
T/T Shanghai	Nom.
T/T Singapore	130 1/2
T/T Japan	139
T/T India	Nom.
Demand, India	Nom.
T/T San Francisco	72 1/2
co & New York	72 1/2
T/T Java	159 1/2
T/T Manila	Nom.
T/T France	4.14 1/2
Demand, Paris	4.15

BUYING.

4 m/s. L/C	3/13 1/2
4 m/s. D/P	3/17 1/2
6 m/s. L/C	3/23 1/2
30 d/a. Sydney & Melbourne	3/23 1/2
30 d/a. San Francisco & New York	73 1/2
4 m/s. Marks	Nom.
4 m/s. France	4.29 1/2
6 m/s. France	4.34 1/2
Demand, Germany	Nom.
Demand, New York	Nom.
T/T Bombay	Nom.
Demand, Bombay	Nom.
T/T Calcutta	Nom.
Demand, Calcutta	Nom.
Demand, Manila	145
Demand, Singapore	130 1/2
On Haiphong	34 1/2 prem.
On Saigon	34 1/2 prem.
On Bangkok	50 1/2
Sovereign	6.50 Nom.
Gold Leaf, per oz.	43.30
Bar Silver, per oz.	45 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

DISCOUNT PER \$100	
H'kong 5 cts. sub.	\$2.00 1/2
" 10 "	" 1.00 1/2
" 50 "	" 1.00 1/2
Canton 20 "	" 7 1/2 1/2

BANKS

BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, HONGKONG

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 Months 3% per annum.

For 6 Months 4% per annum.

For 12 Months 4 1/2% per annum

LOOK POON SHAN,
Chief Manager.

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE.

行銀業實法中

Capital (Paid up) ... France 45,000,000
1/3 of the Capital subscribed by the Government of the Chinese Republic.
Chairman of the Board of Directors: Andre Berthelot.
General Manager: A. J. Pernot.

HEAD OFFICE: 74 Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS

BRANCHES: PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENSIN, HONGKONG, and SAIGON.

IN FRANCE: Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.
IN LONDON: London County & Westminster Bank Ltd.

IN NEW YORK: Redmond & Co.
IN ITALY: Banca Commerciale Italiana.
Telegraphic Address: CHIBANKIND.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application.
Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.
M. ROUET DE JOURNEL, Manager.
HONGKONG BRANCH: Queen's Building, Tel. No. 2452, 5, Chater Road.
Hongkong, 20th August, 1917.

BANKS

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital ... \$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS:
Sterling ... \$1,500,000 at 2/-
— \$15,000,000
Silver ... \$19,300,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors ... \$15,000,000
COURT OF DIRECTORS:
Messrs. P. H. Bateman, Chairman,
C. E. M. Edkins, Esq., Deputy Chairman,
J. G. Barclay, Esq., J. Y. F. Fan, Esq.,
R. H. Dodwell, Esq., W. L. Payne,
R. G. Gubbay, Esq., Mr. M. Y. Shallen,
Messrs. M. D. Landon.

CHIEF MANAGERS:
Hongkong—J. G. Barclay, Esq.,
Shanghai—J. G. Barclay, Esq.,
London—Messrs. London County & Westminster Bank, Limited.

Hongkong—Interest Allowed:
On Current Accounts at the rate of 1/2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.
ON FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 3 months: 1/2 per cent. per annum.
For 6 months: 1/2 per cent. per annum.
For 12 months: 1/2 per cent. per annum.
N. J. STABE,
Chief Manager.

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK

SEE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Rules may be obtained on application.
Interest is allowed on all deposits.
Depositors may transfer to the bank the whole or any part of their deposits, and the bank may place on FIXED DEPOSITS, etc., for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

N. J. STABE,
Chief Manager.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter 1829.

HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.
RESERVE FUND ... £1,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL ... £1,000,000
PROFIT AND LOSS ... £1,000,000

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received for 1 year or shorter periods at rates which will be given on application.
T. C. DOWNING,
Manager.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1918.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Head Office 15, Gracechurch Street, London.

Authorised Capital ... £1,500,000
Subscribed ... £1,500,000
Paid Up ... £1,500,000
Reserve Fund ... £600,000

BRANCHES:
The Bank of England, London.
The London & Lancashire Bank, Ltd., London.
BRANCHES:
Bombay, Calcutta, Ceylon, Colombo, Delhi, Hongkong, India, Japan, Madras, Penang, Rangoon, Shanghai, Singapore, Suez, Tientsin, Yokohama.

Every description of Banking and Exchange Business Transacted.
Current Accounts at 1/2 per cent. per annum on Daily Balances, and on Fixed Deposits at rates which will be given on application.
C. CHAMPKIN,
Acting Manager.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

HEAD OFFICE: 60, Wall St., New York.

LONDON OFFICE: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4.

CAPITAL & RESERVE ... £1,500,000
UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... £1,500,000
US: \$7,500,000

BRANCHES:
BATAVIA, LONDON, PANAMA, SANTO DOMINGO, SAN FRANCISCO, SANTIAGO, SINGAPORE, SOERABAYA, VALPARAISO, YOKOHAMA.

Through its close affiliation with the NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK the Bank is able to offer the services of the Branches of that Institution in Canada, America, and elsewhere, including CANADIAN PACIFIC, HAVANA, MONTREAL, MOSCOW, RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTIAGO DE CHILE, SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, VALPARAISO.

ABSTRACTS OF FOREIGN & LOCAL BANKING BUSINESS Transacted.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received at rates to be ascertained on application.
GEORGE HOGG,
Manager.

Hongkong, 26th September, 1916

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK LIMITED.

Established 1880.

Authorised Capital Yen 48,000,000
Paid-up Capital ... 36,000,000
Reserve Fund ... 23,100,000

Head Office—YOKOHAMA

Branches and Agencies:
Batavia, Calcutta, Canton, Cebu, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkong, Kobe, London, Lyons, Manila, Peking, Rangoon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Suez, Tientsin, Yokohama.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts, Deposits, and on Fixed Deposits at rates to be ascertained on application.
EISHI ONO, Manager.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1918.

MARTIN'S
APOL & STEEL
PISTOLS

A French Patent for a self-loading pistol. It is the most reliable and accurate pistol ever made. It is made in France and is guaranteed to be the best.

MARTIN'S
APOL & STEEL
PISTOLS

A French Patent for a self-loading pistol. It is the most reliable and accurate pistol ever made. It is made in France and is guaranteed to be the best.



Embassy Cigarettes

There has been no alteration in size, weight, quality or manufacture of "Embassy" since 1914.

Every Virginia Leaf used in the manufacture of Embassy Cigarettes is selected and blended by specialists, skilled in the art of their profession.

Sold in Boxes of 10 & in airtight tins of 25 & 50 Cigarettes.

This advertisement is issued by British-American Tobacco Company Ltd.

WHAT THE NAVY HAS DONE.

A Glorious Record.

Mr. Leyland's little book ("The Achievement of the British Navy in the World War") is the best we have read, and it is published at a price (one shilling) which is not beyond the means of the all-potent man in the street, says the Chronicle. If there is foolish criticism of the Navy—and the writer of three lines has never heard anything on the subject but expressions of admiration and gratitude—Admiral Beatty and his brave band of brothers may take consolation from Mr. Leyland's reminder that Howe was burnt in effigy in London almost at the very time when he was fighting his glorious victory of Quiberon.

Our Navy was the prepared arm of our defence at the outbreak of this war, and from that day to this it has directly and indirectly preserved the Allies from defeat and enabled them to do the magnificent work they have done. It is, as Mr. Leyland quotes an old writer, "the thread that runs through the whole woof, the burden of the song, the scope of the text." Whereas the French in the Napoleonic wars continued to capture British ships for ten years after Trafalgar at the rate of 500 a year, the commerce destroying campaign of the Germans by means of cruisers and armed liners was brought to an end in the early months of the present war. The submarines came later, but the action quoted shows that the Navy in 1914 was relatively stronger by many times than it was a hundred years ago. It has safeguarded our own sea-borne supplies and cut off those of the enemy, it has been the support,

in throat and bold, of the armies in the field, shaft of their spear head, and its influence has been as world-wide as the war. Where is the naval power of the Germans? Either in German ports or skulking under the waters. The Jutland battle put the fighting superiority of our Fleet beyond dispute.

At the beginning of the war the German Navy was unprepared, while our own Navy was ready, and the advantage to the British which then arose has never been lost. Sea power has enabled Britain to assemble her armies from India, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, it has guarded them in their passage to France, Belgium, Greece, Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, and Africa, and it will be the ruling factor in making American aid effective; on the other hand, Germany has been unable to send a single soldier to defend her colonies, which have collapsed virtually before the power of our Navy. It is very absurd if anyone is asking what the Navy is doing, when it is so potent that it is winning the war. Mr. Leyland writes in an agreeable and convincing style, and we hope that his moving and interesting narrative will be widely read both at home and abroad.

Billy Sunday's language is unique, but in his gymnastic exercises on the platform he has been anticipated here by the late Father Ignatius. When in mid-Victorian days he used to preach at Store-street Music-hall on Sundays, he was said to cover half a mile in each sermon, and the late Judge Wills in his Parliamentary days made full use of the opportunities a large and free platform gave for theatrical display. He would rush or cross in the heavy tragedian's fashion with folded arms, fling himself into a chair, and spring up to thunder forth his righteous indignation, to the great delight of his audience.

NOTICES.

WAI KEE.

FLAG & SAILMAKER
No. 129, Des Voeux Road Central
Top Floor,
HONGKONG.
Telephone No. 1833

ASAHI BEER.



POST OFFICE.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Registered and Parcel Mail close 15 minutes earlier than the time given below unless otherwise stated.

The Parcel Post service to places in South China is suspended until further notice.

The London Post Office advises that all parcels (except those for Pilgrims of War) and all sample packets for Denmark, Holland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland will be stopped by the Military Censors unless posted under a War Office permit.

The Importation into the Commonwealth of Australia of tea, other than that grown or produced in British Possessions is prohibited unless the export in writing of the Commonwealth Minister for Trade and Customs has been first obtained.

The Parcel Post Service to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Force), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Ethiopia, French Somali Coast, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Uninsured parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters transited at the 4 cents rate added to Yunnan and Mongolia and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—
Parcel not over 10 lbs. 90 cents.
Do. 11 lbs. 1.10
Do. 11 lbs. 2.70

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O.—Week days, 5 p.m.
Tai Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.
Cheung Chow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.
Shataukok, Shatin and Sheungshui.—Week days, 4 p.m.
Aberdeen, Astan, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, San Tin and Stanley.—Week days, 4.30 p.m.
Canton, Samshui, and Wanchow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; Registration 1 p.m.; Letters 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Macao.—Week days, 7.15 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 p.m.
Aman and Sammut.—Week days, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Shamshui.—Week days, 10 a.m., 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

FROM SHEUNGWAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

Macao.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 8.30 a.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.
Canton.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.; 9.30 p.m.
Tai Ping Tung.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Shak Ki.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Except Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 p.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Except Saturdays, Sundays, 9 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.

OUTWARD MAILS.

TO-MORROW.

Singapore.—10th April, 9 a.m.
Straits, Ceylon, Lourenco Marques, Capetown & Europe.—10th April, 10 a.m.
Hondulu.—10th April, Registration 10.45 a.m.; Letters 11.30 a.m.

THURSDAY, 11th April.

Swatow, Amoy, Formosa via Takao and Asing.—11th April, 7 a.m.
Singapore.—11th April, 9 a.m.
Port Bayard, Hongkong and Haiphong.—11th April, 9 a.m.

Shanghai, N. China, Japan via Nagasaki, Canada, United States, Central and S. America and Europe via Canada.—11th April, Registration 9.45 a.m.; Letters 10.30 a.m.

The Parcel Mail will be closed on Wednesday, 11th April, at 5 p.m.
Shanghai and North China.—11th April, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, 12th April.

Straits and India via Calcutta.—12th April, 11 a.m.
Philippine Islands.—12th April, 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, 13th April.

Shanghai and North China.—13th April, 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, 14th April.

Swatow, Amoy and Formosa.—14th April, 9 a.m.

Formosa via Keelung.—14th April, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, 15th April.

Swatow, Amoy and Formosa via Keelung.—15th April, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, 18th April.

Tientsin.—18th April, 11 a.m.

WEATHER REPORT.

April 9d. 11h. 11m.—No returns from Japan and Vladivostok. Pressure has decreased moderately in the vicinity of Shanghai, and increased slightly elsewhere; the depression remains over Tongking.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.08 inch. Total since January 1st 1.25 inch against an average of 7.59 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

District	Forecast.
Hongkong to Gap, Book	S. winds, moderate; cloudy, rain.
Formosa Channel	The same as No. 1.
3d coast of China between H.K. and Lamooki	The same as No. 1.
4th coast of China between H.K. and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register.

April 9, a.m.

Station	Hour	Barometer	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	Direction	Force	Weather
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Vorlook 5a

Namuro 5a

Hakodate 5a

Kobe 5a

Yokohama 5a

Kanagawa 5a

Choshi 5a

Maui 5a

Yokohama 5a

Yokohama 5a

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ENTERTAINMENTS.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

APRIL 10th 10th & 11th 1915.

"THE CIGARETTE GIRL."

A Pathe Gold Rooster Film, in 5 parts.

American Gazette No. 44

"When William's Whiskers Worked."

&c. &c.

GEO. P. LAMMERT.

AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER AND SURVEYOR.

PUBLIC AUCTIONS.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on WEDNESDAY, the 10th April, 1915, commencing at 12 o'clock (NOON) at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street.

The s.s. "American" as she now lies moored off Cheung Sha Wan.

Particulars:—

Gross tonnage 795

Net 513

Iron screw steamer

Length 194' 7"

Breadth 27' 3"

Depth 17' 0"

Engines—Compound 2 cylinders

27 and 50" by 30" stroke.

Note: The above vessel was abandoned to underwriters and is being sold without flag or register as she now lies off Cheung Sha Wan (Hongkong Harbour).

Terms: 20% purchase money on fall of hammer when ship will be at purchaser's risk and completion within one week of date of sale.

GEO. P. LAMMERT Auctioneer.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

FRIDAY, the 12th April 1915, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

at "Eamfoot" No. 42 Robinson Road.

A Large Quantity of Value-able Household Furniture comprising:—

Teak bathtubs with mirror, Tapestry covered drawing room suite, Chesterfield couch, plush covered armchairs, Teak writing tables and desks, Bookcases, Overmantels with mirror, Brass and brass mounted fenders, Mantel clocks, Barograph, Pictures, Vases and Ornaments, Electric ceiling fans and fittings, Axminster carpets, Pile rugs, Lace curtains, etc., etc.

Teak sideboard with mirrors, glass cupboard, extension dining table, dining chairs, dinner wagon, ice chest, tea tables, dinner crockery, cutlery and glassware, electric heater, toaster, kettle, etc., etc.

Double and single brass mounted iron bedsteads, Teak wardrobes with glass doors, Marble top bureau with bevelled mirror, Camphor-wood dressing table with mirror, chest of drawers, Marble top washstands, toilet crockery.

And A pieces of Blackwood-ware Also

A Goyser.

On view from Thursday the 11th inst.

Catalogues will be issued.

Terms:—Cash on delivery.

GEO. P. LAMMERT Auctioneer.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, by George William

Oade Barnett at 11, Des Voeux Street, in the City of Victoria

Hong Kong.

NOTICES.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD.

DURING the absence of the undersigned, Mr. H. N. Beaupre will act as Manager, BY ORDER OF THE BOARD J. H. TAGGART, Manager.

GOOD ADVICE.

What is good for the goose is good for the gander, it is no use to choose, it is no use to wonder. If you want another number Of the WAR BOND DRAWINGS more. You will be HAPPY and not sornbre If you buy it of KOMOR.

HONGKONG LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above League will be held in the Hongkong Cricket Club Pavilion on THURSDAY April 11th at 5.15 p.m. Clubs interested are requested to send representatives.

F. LINDSAY WOODS, Hon. Secretary.

NOTICE.

HAVING resumed charge of my business carried on under the style of Messrs. S. C. Iamail & Co., I, the undersigned, hereby give notice that from this date all cheques on Bankers, Contractors and other matters in connection with the business of the firm will be signed by me.

S. C. IMAIL.

HONGKONG DOG, CAT, POULTRY AND PIGEON SHOW

1915.

THE above Show will be held at the Race Course on SATURDAY, the 27th April. Entrance fees for Dogs and/or Cats \$2 each exhibit. No entrance fee for Poultry or Pigeons.

Entry forms and a specimen cage for exhibiting Poultry are now available.

Entries close to the Undersigned up to noon the 13th April.

G. W. GEGG.

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.

of Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1915.